

Today's News - Tuesday, May 2, 2017

- We lose Acconci, an "audacious artist" turned "experimental architect - he committed to making public spaces that were both utilitarian and playful."
- McKeough revisits Acconci with a fascinating 2007 profile "about his unexpected foray into architecture."
- A bridge too far: Wainwright parses the demise of London's Garden Bridge, "fiercely opposed by supporters of gardens and bridges alike, of which this vanity project was clearly never either."
- Heatherwick weighs in on the "endless political wrangling": "It is always easier to stop an unusual new idea than to make it happen. I firmly believe [the Garden Bridge] will happen one day" (comments mince no words, too).
- Lumley goes on the attack: "I hope we're not turning into the sort of country that instantly says no before it considers saying yes. The silent majority still loves the bridge, but of course they were not asked what they think."
- Lane calls for Garden Bridge funding to go to new pedestrian crossings that are actually needed: "There has been plenty of proposals - all are far cheaper than the Garden Bridge."
- Elledge ponders: "Where did it all go wrong? It should have been great. So how did something so lovely end up so loathed?"
- O'Sullivan says: "Good riddance to London's age of fanciful, functionless infrastructure. It won't be missed" - along with his a litany of other "major hare-brained schemes that actually made it through."
- On a much (much!) brighter note (we hope!): the new federal spending bill would spare - and even slightly increase - funding for PBS, NEA, and NEH.
- Kunzig considers "the world's most improbable green city": Dubai "had one of the largest ecological footprints of any city in the world. By 2050 it wants to have the smallest" - and many "believe the city might actually pull that off" ("when camels fly," perhaps?).
- Hosey, on the other hand, hails Washington, DC, as the "quiet capital of sustainable design," with codes and laws "considered a national model" (who knew?!?).
- Boston planners and green space advocates hope "to fulfill Olmsted's vision" of the city's "green necklace" by transforming a homely, traffic-clogged road into a greenway - the city "has tentatively embraced the idea" (but no funding - yet).
- Kimmelman takes issue with the NY State governor's plan to fix Penn Station: "In effect, Cuomo wants to slap a two-car garage onto a dilapidated split-level and declare the property good as new" (oh joy).
- Dunlap, meanwhile, gives thumbs-up to 3 new "ethereal" and "diaphanous cable-stayed bridges" in New York that "are already transforming the skyline."
- Hawthorne tells the tale of Paul R. Williams and his connection to the "bleak" 25th anniversary of the L.A. riots: a Williams-designed bank building "went up in flames," along with "a large chunk of his archive. Race can never be detached from any discussion of his relative prominence in Los Angeles or in the profession."
- Anderton takes us on a tour of Mayne's replacement for Ray Bradbury's house that he promised "would honor Bradbury. Did they deliver?" (the neighbors think so).
- As Cuba "embraces global tourism" with lots of international hoteliers renovating historic buildings, "what will happen to those less prominent and more sensitive relics?"
- Gopnik tells us how wonderful it was to grow up Safdie's Habitat, which, "for sheer sensory excitement, could not and cannot be matched" - but so many other Brutalist gems have been demolished.
- A good reason to head to NYC at the end of the week: the National Planning Conference: NPC17 has the big

three: Location. Learning. Connections.

- Call for entries (reminder: deadline looms!): WAF Awards + INSIDE World Festival of Interiors Awards 2017.



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Obituary: Vito Acconci, Audacious Artist and Experimental Architect, 77: For a little under two decades, he produced strikingly original and impressionable art, before abandoning it for experimental architecture and design...he committed to making public spaces that were both utilitarian and playful. By Elisa Wouk Almino -- Steven Holl - Hyperallergic

Tim McKeough: Revisiting the World of Vito Acconci, 1940-2017: ...a story from our October 2007 issue about his unexpected foray into architecture: ...his work has always been about one thing: human experience...freeing up how people interact with the environment around them - or at least making them more aware of their surroundings - remains his guiding objective. -- Steven Holl [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

Oliver Wainwright: The garden bridge is dead - now £37m of public money must be repaid: Despite its exclusivity and rickety economics, the project went far further than it should have thanks to Boris Johnson's disregard for planning rules...fiercely opposed by supporters of gardens and bridges alike, of which this vanity project was clearly never either...Sadiq Khan, has refused to guarantee further funding for his predecessor's misguided folly. -- Thomas Heatherwick; Arup- Guardian (UK)

Thomas Heatherwick: One day I hope London gets its garden bridge: ...those of us who believe [it] would benefit the city have been forced to fight to make it happen...endless political wrangling has now brought it to a standstill...It is always easier to stop an unusual new idea than to make it happen. I firmly believe it will happen one day.- Evening Standard (UK)

Joanna Lumley attacks Sadiq Khan's scrapping of Thames garden bridge: ...describes London mayor's decision to pull financial backing for project as..."absolutely shattering, devastating...I hope we're not turning into the sort of country that instantly says no before it considers saying yes...The silent majority still love the bridge, but of course they were not asked what they think." - Guardian (UK)

Thomas Lane: It's time to divert Garden Bridge funding to other Thames crossings: Our reader poll demonstrates an appetite for more Thames pedestrian crossings...Regeneration of the former docks, Nine Elms and Battersea has made the case for new crossings more urgent...There has been plenty of proposals, some have planning and a degree of funding - all are far cheaper than the Garden Bridge.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Jonn Elledge: The Garden Bridge was a symbol of everything wrong with modern London. I'm glad it's dead: Where did it all go wrong? ...[it] should have been great...So how did something so lovely end up so loathed? The obvious explanation is the growing sense that the whole thing has been a bit of a con...there's another, more philosophical reason why a lovely idea...should have become so unpopular... -- Thomas Heatherwick- CityMetric (UK)

Fergus O'Sullivan: The Death of London's Garden Bridge, and the End Of An Era: Good riddance to London's age of fanciful, functionless infrastructure: People want charm and beauty in their lives, and they also want useful stuff like bridges, if they're actually going to prove useful. London's folly boom produced some very pretty renderings, but its overall effect served to corrupt rather than enhance public debate. It won't be missed. -- Thomas Heatherwick- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Federal budget deal would spare arts agencies: The new federal spending bill would spare - and even slightly increase - funding for three arts-related agencies that President Trump has proposed eliminating: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [PBS], the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] and National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH]. - USA Today

Robert Kunzig: The World's Most Improbable Green City: A decade ago Dubai had one of the largest ecological footprints of any city in the world. By 2050 it wants to have the smallest. Can it get there? When camels fly, you might say...Many people...believe the city might actually pull that off. And if it can happen here, they say, it can happen anywhere. -- Janus Rostock/Atkins; Neil Walmsley/Arup; Yasser Elsheshtawy; Norman Foster/Foster + Partners- National Geographic

Lance Hosey: Washington, DC, is the Quiet Capital of Sustainable Design: ...the city's greenest asset - its buildings. The District long has been the center of the green building movement...became the first city in the nation to pass a law mandating LEED certification for both public and private buildings, and its Green Construction Codes...are considered a national model...the city represents the cutting edge of sustainable design...- Huffington Post

Boston Planners See a Greenway Where There's a High-Traffic Road: ...there's a growing movement among planners and green space advocates to fulfill Olmsted's vision by turning Columbia Road into a greenway...the city has tentatively embraced the idea...has not found its way into the capital budget...the idea of fulfilling his vision carries resonance for many...But that doesn't mean [it] would look anything like well-known Olmsted-era parkways. - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Michael Kimmelman: Cuomo Has the Opportunity to Fix Penn Station, but Will He? The transportation hub serving about 650,000 daily passengers desperately needs an overhaul. So far, the New York governor's plans don't begin to address the problems: In effect, [he] wants to slap a two-car garage onto a dilapidated split-level and declare the property good as new. -- Vishaan Chakrabarti- New York Times

David W. Dunlap: 3 New Eye-Catching Bridges Rise in New York: The home of past-century wonders like the Brooklyn Bridge returns to building...diaphanous cable-stayed bridges that look almost too ethereal to bear the load of thousands of vehicles and people each day. They are already transforming the skyline. -- Bradley C. Touchstone/Touchstone Architecture [images]- New York Times

Christopher Hawthorne: For the late L.A. architect Paul R. Williams, national honor overlaps with a bleak anniversary: ...25th anniversary of the day the Broadway Federal Savings & Loan...went up in flames.....The fire not only

destroyed the bank but a large chunk of Williams' archive...[and] one of his landmarks in addition to all those drawings...Race can never be detached from any discussion of his relative prominence in Los Angeles or in the profession.- Los Angeles Times

DNA/Frances Anderton: What would Ray think? Thom and Blythe Mayne's house in Cheviot Hills is almost ready to call home: Ray Bradbury lived in the same house for 50 years...one of LA's most prominent architects...bulldozed it...promised a "very, very modest" house that would honor Bradbury...Did they deliver? ...the compelling design has garnered approval from the neighbors...described its quirky and playful interior...like "European puppet theater." -- Thom Mayne/Morphosis [images]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

As Cuba's economy embraces global tourism, modernist works fall under threat: ...a ballooning interest...by international hoteliers...Real questions exist...not only in terms of the quality of these renovations, but also with regard to the status of other cultural, archeological, and architectural artifacts...What will happen to those less prominent and more sensitive relics? -- Belmont Freeman; McKim, Mead & White; Welton Becket; Lin Arroyo; Gabriela Menendez; Ricardo Porro; Vittorio Garatti; Roberto Gottardi; Humberto Alonso; Universo Garcia Lorenzo-The Architect's Newspaper

Blake Gopnik: Growing Up in a Concrete Masterpiece: My childhood home is turning 50, just in time for the rebirth of Brutalism, an architectural style that has been scorned for years: For sheer sensory excitement, Habitat could not and cannot be matched...Poured concrete...was honest and audacious in avowing its bulk, primeval and pretense-free...in recent years many have been demolished. -- Moshe Safdie; Marcel Breuer; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Jonathan Marvel/Marvel Architects- New York Times

National Planning Conference: Planning in Motion: NPC17 has the big three: Location. Learning. Connections. May 6-9, New York City:- American Planning Association (APA)

Call for entries (2): WAF Awards + INSIDE World Festival of Interiors Awards 2017 changing the face of global architecture and interiors; deadline: May 18- World Architecture Festival (WAF) / INSIDE World Festival of Interiors

ANN feature: 2017 AIA Architecture Firm Award Winners: An Interview with Bill Leddy, Marsha Maytum, and Richard Stacy of LEDDY MAYTUM STACY Architects: "Our track record of pushing to make a difference shows that a small firm can make a difference." - Marsha Maytum [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, May 3, 2017

- A sad way to start the day: we've lost Diane Lewis, "one of the most beloved and influential voices of our community," says Tehrani (it was always a treat to bump into her at NYC's Center for Architecture- we always laughed, I always learned - kr).
- Horne and Adamson parse the importance of the New Urban Agenda: "It recognizes the growth energized by cities but also their spatial, social, cultural and economic inequalities. Action is urgently called for."
- Plan to spend some time with a round-up of Citiscope's "ongoing coverage of how nations, regions and cities are implementing the New Urban Agenda."
- Dittmar explains why new urbanism, "the ground-up movement which helped defeat urban decay in the 1980s, is just as relevant now our cities face the opposite problem."
- James Corner talks about why "landscape architects are the unsung heroes shaping our public realm."
- ASLA seeks signatures for its letter to the EPA's Pruitt urging him to reconsider recent actions that will endanger our planet."
- Green, Buday, and Baranowski delve into "the science and psychology behind buildings": "Persuasive buildings aren't built today. When arcane theory replaced narrative, buildings lost their persuasive power and the public lost interest in architecture."
- Braidwood considers why "very few practices are skilled up on how design can benefit sufferers" of dementia - and gets input from a few who do.
- Youde considers why "architects are often unaware of how their buildings can affect deaf people" - and gets input from a few who are.
- King x 2: Why allowing hotels on San Francisco's Embarcadero might not be "such a bad idea after all."
- He cheers Napa's new "living river" that "combines old-school engineering with a far-sighted focus on environmental needs. But here's the crucial detail. It works."
- Hume bemoans "how Toronto's condo boom gives chain stores and fast food franchises the upper hand. One street now looks like any other street - it's an onslaught on everything that makes the city lively and engaging."
- Calgary, on the other hand, may not be "a Dubai, NYC, London or Singapore - but when it comes to being on the world map [architecturally speaking], we've come a long way in the past 20 years" ("a nifty walking tour").
- Kimmelman cheers Gluck+'s tennis & learning center in the Bronx as "money well spent" for underserved children.
- Michael Ford is taking his Hip-Hop Architecture Camp, free, weeklong summer camps, to Detroit, Atlanta, Austin, New York and Milwaukee.
- Lubell parses the emoji façade in Vathorst: "most discussion has focused on the emojis, not its fairly pedestrian design," but he admires the architect's attitude.
- Bozikovic cheers RAIC for honoring the late John Bentley Mays with the President's Medal for Media in Architecture.
- Nka Foundation names the winners of 2017 Land Art Competition, who hail from Japan, China, and the U.S.
- Call for entries: A House for Maya Deren, avant-garde film maker + A(other) Red & Blue Chair.

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Obituary: New York architect and professor Diane Lewis: ...recipient of...the 2008 Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt National Design Award...first woman architect appointed to the full-time faculty at the Cooper Union...Nader Tehrani, dean: "we lost one of the most beloved and influential voices of our community...She had a voice, she used it, and she led with it." - The Architect's Newspaper

Ralph Horne and David Adamson: What can the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals do for cities? ...will aim for city sustainability, shaping our liveability, homes and neighbourhoods...It recognises the growth energised by cities but also their spatial, social, cultural and economic inequalities...The shift to cities hasn't reduced inequality. Instead, it has shifted poverty to cities and deepened inequality in the process. - The Conversation (Australia)

The New Urban Agenda: ...a document intended to guide national and local policies on the growth and development of cities through 2036. Nearly 170 countries adopted [it] in October 2016 at the U.N.'s Habitat III summit on cities in Quito, Ecuador...Citiscope's ongoing coverage of how nations, regions and cities are implementing the New Urban Agenda. - Citiscope.org

Hank Dittmar: Why new urbanism is the answer all over again: The ground-up movement which helped defeat urban decay in the 1980s is just as relevant now our cities face the opposite problem. -- Peter Calthorpe; Richard Florida-BD/Building Design (UK)

Interview: James Corner: Landscape architects are the unsung heroes shaping our public realm, says the High Line designer: What unifies his work? "We design places that are beautiful...They're adding value for the ecology, environment, people and economic development. They're also provoking the imagination." -- James Corner Field Operations- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Stand Up for Our Environment: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requests public comment on recent executive orders to eliminate federal programs and policies...Sign onto ASLA's letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, urging him to reconsider recent actions that will endanger our planet. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Melanie Green, Richard Buday, Tom Baranowski: Understanding the Science and Psychology Behind Buildings: For architecture, knowledge is good, but storytelling is even better: Early architects embedded story in their buildings...Persuasive buildings aren't built today...a missed opportunity...When arcane theory replaced narrative, buildings lost their persuasive power and the public lost interest in architecture. - Common Edge

Ella Braidwood: Are architects doing enough to tackle dementia? ...very few practices are skilled up on how design can benefit sufferers: "The best thing to do is to enable people with dementia to engage with architects"...it is clients that are driving the growing awareness of the issue + Top tips for dementia-friendly design + The Netherlands' radical approach to dementia. -- Niall McLaughlin; Yeoryia Manolopoulou/AY Architects; Glancy Nicholls Architects; Bill Halsall; Robert MacDonald; Clare Cameron/PRP; Richard Murphy;

Molenaar&Bol&VanDellen architecten- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Kate Youde: Put design for the deaf on the agenda: ...architects are often unaware of how their buildings can affect deaf people: Hall McKnight is working closely with [Gallaudet University in Washington DC]...the first time DeafSpace Design Guidelines have been applied to the public realm + Top tips for designing for deaf people. -- Richard Dougherty; David Morley Architects; Steve Wallis/dRMM- The Architects' Journal (UK)

John King: Hotels on the Embarcadero - not such a bad idea after all? ...aged piers are so integral to San Francisco's self-image...the smart approach is to treat them as works in progress...that might benefit by being used in ways that have been shunned in the past...there's interest in perhaps loosening things - a little bit - if the payoff is preservation of the remaining century-old piers.- San Francisco Chronicle

John King: 'Living river' rejuvenates Napa, brings needed flood control: It combines old-school engineering with a far-sighted focus on environmental needs. But here's the crucial detail. It works...in ways no traditional solution could have achieved...the projects that deliver the most benefits often are the ones that dare to imagine a future different than the past. [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Christopher Hume: How Toronto's condo boom gives chain stores the upper hand: ...there's little evidence of the diversity the city motto says is our strength...One corner now could be any corner. One street now looks like any other street...From the civic perspective...it's an onslaught on everything that makes the city lively and engaging.- Toronto Star

Calgary's global architecture, a nifty walking tour: Sure, we aren't a Dubai, New York City, London or Singapore - but when it comes to being on the world map, we've come a long way in the past 20 years. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Snohetta; Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Jaume Plensa; Arney Fender Katsalidis; MMC International Architects; Pickard Chilton; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Jeremy Sturgess/Sturgess Architecture; Gibbs Gage Architects; Santiago Calatrava; Stantec; RFR; Halsall Associates; Civitas; W Architecture- CBC (Canada)

Michael Kimmelman: Tennis, for Anyone? In the Bronx, the Answer Is Yes: At Crotona Park, a stylish new clubhouse is about more than topspin. It's the home of a tennis and tutoring program for underserved children...Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning is money well spent. -- Peter Gluck/Gluck+- New York Times

This Architect Has Created A 'Hip-Hop Architecture Camp' To Expose Black Kids To Design: Historically, the field of architecture has been dominated by white males. Michael Ford says it's time for a change: ...[he] has brought together a group of like-minded colleagues...in organizing free, weeklong summer camps...this year in Detroit, Atlanta, Austin, New York and Milwaukee...- Blavity.com

Sam Lubell: Architects Discover Emoji, and Guess What - They Aren't All Happy About It: Changiz Tehrani...incorporating emoji into...an apartment building in Vathorst...They didn't set out to prompt a debate, they just wanted to bring a

little levity to a field notorious for taking itself just a bit too seriously. "Architecture is not a religion for us,...You also have to have fun." Whatever your views on the building, you have to admire that attitude.- Wired

Alex Bozikovic: Late critic John Bentley Mays honoured for explaining art of architecture: The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) announced...Mays, who died in September, has been awarded the President's Medal for Media in Architecture...also honoured...Annmarie Adams for an article on hospital architecture in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Nka Foundation Announces the Winners of 2017 Land Art Competition: ...ideas for large-scale and site-specific public art installations based on site in rural Ghana [Abetenim Arts Village]. -- Yusuke Suzuki Design Office (Japan); Urban Active Space Research (China); Sara Arfaian/Junko Yamamoto/Jenny Zhan (USA)- Nka Foundation

Call for entries (2): A House for Maya Deren, avant-garde film maker + A(other) Red & Blue Chair, inspired by the De Stijl art movement that also inspired Gerrit Rietveld; registration deadline: July 1 (submissions due July 15)- ICARCH (International Competitions in Architecture)

ANN feature: 2017 AIA Architecture Firm Award Winners: An Interview with Bill Leddy, Marsha Maytum, and Richard Stacy of LEDDY MAYTUM STACY Architects: "Our track record of pushing to make a difference shows that a small firm can make a difference." - Marsha Maytum [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, May 4, 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday are no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 9.

- We are so pleased to bring you the preface to Shane O'Toole's "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": "Historians always place great weight on contemporary accounts - a work of architecture is not complete until it has been written about."
- Kamin offers his preliminary take on Tod Williams Billie Tsien's preliminary design for Obama's presidential library: it's "a promising, populist start" with "assorted urban delights - but the architecture isn't yet persuasive."
- Bozikovic is a bit more upbeat re: no-drama Obama's library: "The architecture works hard not to be pushy - and yet it will cut a dramatic figure. It says: This is change you can believe in."
- Sweet says the Obama Center design "reflects the Obamas. Splashy. Tasteful. Sleek. Modern. In a part of the city that one day will be called Obamaland."
- Grant Associates, along with WilkinsonEyre and Atelier Ten, wins the competition for the 41-hectare Tianjin Sino-Singapore Friendship Park for "the world's largest eco city in northern China."
- Leers Weinzapfel completes UMass Amherst's new Design Building, "the first academic building in the U.S. to use CLT as its primary structure."
- AIA Upjohn Research Initiative awards 5 projects a total of \$100K in grants for projects "ranging from lighting for occupant well-being to walls made of trash."
- Call for entries: Urban SOS 2017: hOUR City international student competition to strengthen connections between cities and their surrounding regions.

Weekend diversions:

- Wainwright gives (mostly) thumbs-up to "Citizen Jane": it "brings home the enduring relevance of her ideas," yet "the pantomime goody-baddy narrative has become drastically oversimplified, a problem that this film does little to address."
- One we couldn't resist: Walker wonders "who should star in a Jane Jacobs biopic?" (Plimpton, Bacon & Cumberbatch, anyone?)
- "Berlin/Los Angeles: Space for Music" at the Getty in L.A. explores connections between Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonic and Gehry's Disney Hall: "both were pivotal in fostering a strong resonance between architecture and the city."
- Gendall talks to Kapoor about "Descension," an "endless whirlpool" embedded into Brooklyn Bridge Park: "It's a bit like watching a fire - it's always changing."
- Budds cheers "The New Inflatable Moment" at Boston's BSA Space: "inflatable architecture has grown up, cut its hair, and moved from an artistic pie-in-the sky pursuit to something more practical and applied" (fab pix!).
- Pearman praises O'Toole's "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": it is "delightfully different from just about any other architecture book."
- Cuozzo forgives Davidson's "embrace of bike lanes" because his "Magnetic City: A Walking Companion to New York" lends "nuance, texture and historical perspective to my impression that NYC has never been so appealing or life-affirming as it is today."
- Moore gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Dyckhoff's "The Age of Spectacle": "His tone is jaunty, anecdotal, engaging, sometimes personal" (though sometimes "he can be too much of a mall rat with his material")."

- He hails Saumarez Smith's "East London": his "tour of the East End is enjoyable but unashamedly whimsical. If you want social realism - look elsewhere."
- Landscape architect Kullmann has a few issues with "Cities Without Ground: A Hong Kong Guidebook": "It's a beautiful, insightful book, but its sense of gravity is all wrong."
- Shulman's "Building Bacardi: Architecture, Art & Identity" traces the company's "affair with design - calling it a coffee or cocktail table book would do little service to his research."
- Kuehn's "Architects' Graves: A Serendipitous Guide" uncovers "the often surprisingly humble" final resting places of some notable names.



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ANN feature: Shane O'Toole: Preface to "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": It is a truism to say that journalism is the first draft of history. Historians always place great weight on contemporary accounts...a work of architecture is not complete until it has been written about.- ArchNewsNow.com

Blair Kamin: Obama Center design: A promising, populist start: ...a campuslike cluster surrounded by dramatically sculpted parkland and assorted urban delights...a good start on urban planning, but the architecture isn't yet persuasive...He wants a forward-looking building...Nice rhetoric, but it's not yet supported by the architectural reality...Even so, this is a promising beginning. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Design Architects (IDEA); Michael Van Valkenburgh [images]- Chicago Tribune

Alex Bozikovic: The Obamas' presidential library design sets the tone for a new chapter in Chicago: ...and it comes with a bit of drama...The architecture...works hard not to be pushy...and yet it will cut a dramatic figure...would assertively mark their presence and signal that this part of its city is getting a new chapter. It says: This is change you can believe in. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Dina Griffin/Interactive Design Architects (IDEA); Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Lynn Sweet: Obama Center design is splashy with welcoming streetscape: The buildings reflect the Obamas. Splashy. Tasteful. Sleek. Modern. And certainly not a display of the architect's vanity. It is architecture that relates to the adventurous buildings spawned in the last decade on the University of Chicago campus...In a part of the city that one day will be called Obamaland. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Dina Griffin/Interactive Design Architects (IDEA) - Chicago Sun-Times

Grant Associates wins design competition for 41-hectare Tianjin Sino-Singapore Friendship Park: ...part of the world's largest eco city in northern China...will be the most high-profile public park within the 3,000 hectare city...also intended as an all-season, international tourist destination. -- WilkinsonEyre Architects; Atelier Ten [images]- Horticulture Week (UK)

UMass Amherst completes cross-laminated timber building: ...Design Building at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the first academic building in the U.S. to use CLT as its primary structure...emphasizes the unification of the university's departments of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, and the Building and Construction Technology program into one singular facility. -- Leers Weinzapfel Associates; Stephen Stimpson Associates [images]- The Architect's Newspaper



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AIA awards 5 research projects \$100K in grant funding: Five teams of architects, designers and researchers studying topics ranging from lighting for occupant well-being to walls made of trash...In its 10th year, the Upjohn Research Initiative funds applied research projects in design and construction.- Construction Dive

Call for entries: Urban SOS 2017: hOUR City international student competition: rethink housing, transportation, and economic development to strengthen connections between cities and their surrounding regions; no fee; cash prizes; deadline: July 17 - Van Alen Institute /AECOM / 100 Resilient Cities

Oliver Wainwright: Street fighter: how Jane Jacobs saved New York from Bulldozer Bob: "Citizen Jane: Battle for the City"...brings home the enduring relevance of her ideas...the pantomime goody-baddy narrative has become drastically oversimplified, a problem that this film does little to address. Yes, Robert Moses was a bullying megalomaniac, but he also built 658 playgrounds, 10 giant public swimming pools...Neither should Jacobs' theories and her influence on contemporary "good practice" go totally unquestioned.- Guardian (UK)

Alissa Walker: Who should star in a Jane Jacobs biopic? With a new documentary out, we got thinking: What would a celebrity-studded Jane Jacobs movie look like? ...with so many actual Hollywood connections - who would, naturally, play their own relatives... -- Jane Jacobs/Martha Plimpton; Robert Moses/Jeffrey Tambor; Edmund Bacon/Kevin Bacon; James Rouse/Edward Norton; William "Holly" Whyte/Benedict Cumberbatch; etc.- Curbed

"Berlin/Los Angeles: Space for Music": Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Berlin and Los Angeles sister-city partnership, the exhibition explores connections between Hans Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonic (1960–1963) and Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall (1999–2003)...both were pivotal in fostering a strong resonance between architecture and the city. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, thru July 30 [images]- Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles)

John Gendall: Anish Kapoor Explains His Latest Installation of an Endless Whirlpool: On the banks of the East River, and in the shade of the Brooklyn Bridge..."Descension," a circular pool of constantly spiraling water, embedded into the lawn of Brooklyn Bridge Park..."It's a bit like watching a fire - it's always changing"; thru September 10 [images]- Architectural Digest

Diana Budds: Today's Architects Are Obsessed With Inflatable Design - Here's Why: Inflatable architecture...is back: "The New Inflatable Moment"...at BSA Space, home of the Boston Society of Architects...trace design's fascination with blow-ups all the way back to 1783...inflatable architecture has grown up, cut its hair, and moved from an artistic pie-in-the sky pursuit to something more practical and applied. [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Hugh Pearman: Boom, bust and Irish criticism: Shane O'Toole captivates with this collection of his writings from the tempestuous time of the 'Celtic Tiger' and subsequent crash: "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture"...is delightfully different from just about any other architecture book. -- Group 91 - RIBA Journal (UK)

Steve Cuozzo: New York City has never been better than it is today: ...an enthralling new book makes clear that I'm not alone in my home-town infatuation. "Magnetic City: A Walking Companion to New York" by Justin Davidson lends nuance, texture and historical perspective to my impression that New York City has never been so appealing or life-affirming as it is today. - New York Post

Rowan Moore: "The Age of Spectacle: Adventures in Architecture and the 21st-Century City" by Tom Dyckhoff: ...looks at the impetus behind the modern era's frantic desire to erect eye-catching buildings...no one has quite done what he does...which is to tell its story clearly and plainly...His tone is jaunty, anecdotal, engaging, sometimes personal...although a self-declared optimist, he leads himself to the pessimistic conclusion that the future will probably hold more of the same. - Observer (UK)

Rowan Moore: "East London" - a journey through a smartphone lens: Charles Saumarez Smith's 'connoisseur's' tour of the East End is enjoyable but unashamedly whimsical: If you want social realism or deep analysis of the complexities of gentrification, look elsewhere. Instead we have a book palpably good-natured and benign...Making no claims to change the world, it just wants to enjoy it. [images]- Observer (UK)

Karl Kullmann: Hong Kong, Grounded: Photographing the zones of contact between the multilevel metropolis and the mountain: "Cities Without Ground: A Hong Kong Guidebook" by Adam Frampton, Jonathan D. Solomon, and Clara Wong...they draw a city that has radically abrogated its relationship with the ground plane. It's a beautiful, insightful book, but its sense of gravity is all wrong...the ground is everywhere.- Places Journal

Cuba Libre: A new book explores Bacardi's use of architecture going back to the 1800s: Allan Shulman's "Building Bacardi: Architecture, Art & Identity" traces the beverage empire's affair with design...calling it a coffee or cocktail table book would do little service to his research, which is thorough...The design coverage is comprehensive, yet succinct. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A Guide to Architects Past: Henry H. Kuehn's "Architects' Graves: A Serendipitous Guide" explores the often surprisingly humble sites that are the final resting places for some renowned architects...While he was expecting to find glorious monuments...[he] was surprised to discover modest plots of remembrance and that many architects chose to be cremated... [images]- Architect Magazine

ANN feature: 2017 AIA Architecture Firm Award Winners: An Interview with Bill Leddy, Marsha Maytum, and Richard Stacy of LEDDY MAYTUM STACY Architects: "Our track record of pushing to make a difference shows that a small firm can make a difference." - Marsha Maytum [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, May 9, 2017

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of ARM's Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, "an early Australian picturesque of the beautiful ruin" that "recalls the great civic gestures of the 19th century."
- A scary sign of the times: an AJ survey finds one in six firms has been affected by cyber attacks: "architects will need to become more aware of online security issues - in the buildings they design as well as those they work in."
- Capps explains why the Obama library being sited in Chicago's Jackson Park "misses an opportunity - and sets a bad precedent."
- Hume explains why a plan for West Village on a former Imperial Oil site on Mississauga's waterfront "needs a rethink": "In its effort to provide the best of both urban and suburban worlds, it could well end up with the worst."
- Moore, on a brighter note, cheers Chester Storyhouse, a repurposed art deco cinema transformed "into an exciting new communal space - brave and intriguing."
- Brooks brings us bunches of luscious pix of Gaudí's Casa Vicens in Barcelona that is "now an Incredible museum: It's no Sagrada Família, but it is gorgeous" (that's putting it mildly!).
- Chicago's about-to-open American Writers Museum could have been "a dry, uninviting place," like a dusty novel - instead, it "is more like something hot off the presses and eager to be read."
- Chipperfield "sees off stars to win £45m Scottish Chamber Orchestra venue in Edinburgh" - alas, no images (yet) of the "intriguing" and "well-expressed" design.
- Dror and Gensler's master plan for Istanbul's Galataport along the Bosphorus includes an ingenious hydraulic boardwalk with an underground gangway for cruise ships that frees up the now mainly inaccessible-to-the-public waterfront.
- Hawthorne parses Harvard's first online architecture course: it seems "to keep up an elaborate charade that the field is somehow independent of" urbanism, the politics of housing, etc. that could "warp architects' view of their place in the culture from the start" (sounds like archi-babble at its finest to us).
- Budds finds out from Helfand why, if we want "strong solutions to our world's increasingly sophisticated problems, we need to change how designers are designed."
- Chamberlain has a great conversation with Florida re: his new book, spatial inequality - "and the daunting task of solving these problems in the age of Trump" in Common Edge's inaugural podcast.
- May's Curry Stone Design Prize Social Design Circle honorees answer the question: Can We Design Social Engagement?
- Korody's Q&A with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects re: how and why they "strive to make buildings that bring attention towards, rather than away from, the landscape."
- A most impressive presentation of the Cooper Hewitt 2017 National Design Awards winners - our heartiest congrats to all!
- The AIA College of Fellows awards the \$100,000 2017 Latrobe Prize to Northeastern University researchers for "Future-Use Architecture" (beware archi-babble - in our book, anyway).
- Toronto-based Batay-Csorba Architects takes home the RAIC 2017 Young Architect Award.
- A sad sign of the times: The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald are shedding their arts coverage, giving pink slips to more than 100 critics and writers (sigh).
- Call for entries: RFQ: Citroën Cultural Centre in Brussels (partnering with the Pompidou Centre).

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This week at ARCsplace

ARM Architecture (Ashton Raggatt McDougall): Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, Geelong, Australia: ...an early Australian picturesque of the beautiful ruin...recalls the great civic gestures of the 19th century, a sign when the dome was symbolic of democracy, enlightenment and civil society. -- Taylor Cullity Lethlean [images]

AJ survey: one in six practices affected by cyber attacks: ...anonymous responses to the survey show a number of firms complaining about ransomware and phishing attacks...architects will need to become more aware of online security issues - in the buildings they design as well as those they work in. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Kriston Capps: One Big Problem With Obama's Presidential Library: Carving out space in Olmsted-designed Jackson Park...misses an opportunity - and sets a bad precedent: ...contributing to a troubling trend...Parks don't stand a chance if cities treat them like free parking. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Dina Griffin/Interactive Design Architects (IDEA); Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Christopher Hume: Mississauga waterfront proposal needs a rethink: Though there's much to admire, the designers have overlooked the most fundamental element of successful cities - the street: Renderings of West Village show a community that is halfway between urban and suburban. But in its effort to provide the best of both worlds, it could well end up with the worst. [image] - Toronto Star

Rowan Moore: Chester Storyhouse: how a repurposed art deco cinema could revitalise the city: Cinema, theatre, library ... what was once the Chester Odeon has been turned into an exciting new communal space: ...brave and intriguing...spaces have a human scale, with 'flashes of epic' when you encounter a piece from the past. -- Bennetts Associates; Charcoalblue [images] - Observer (UK)

Katherine Brooks: The First House Antoni Gaudí Ever Designed Is Now An Incredible Museum: It's no Sagrada Família, but it is gorgeous: Casa Vicens...in Barcelona...will be transformed into a museum dedicated to Gaudí this fall. -- Joan Baptista Serra de Martínez (1925); José Antonio Martínez Lapeña/Elías Torres/Martínez Lapeña-Torres Arquitectes; David García/Daw Office [images] - Huffington Post

American Writers Museum sneak peek: far-reaching, dramatic: ...could be a dry, uninviting place, like a novel left so long on the shelf that its cover is dusty, its pages brittle. The new Chicago institution...is more like something hot off the presses and eager to be read. -- Amaze Design - Chicago Tribune

David Chipperfield Architects sees off stars to win £45m Scottish Chamber Orchestra venue in Edinburgh: ...beating David Adjaye Associate, Richard Murphy Architects, KPMB Architects, Barozzi Veiga and Allies and Morrison...judges described scheme as "intriguing" and "well-expressed." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Dror and Gensler propose underground cruise operation for Istanbul's Galataport masterplan: Using a hydraulic boardwalk that deploys a rising gangway...only takes up 3.5 meters...to free up the now mainly inaccessible-to-the-public 1.2 kilometer Bosphorus abutting boardwalk while still servicing cruise ships...they invented this underground system... -- BEA; Norm Architects [images] - Archinect

Christopher Hawthorne: Harvard's first online architecture course: Does it make the grade? "The Architectural Imagination"... K. Michael Hays...approach doesn't simply treat architecture as a discipline...with its own passwords and protocols. It guards that separation with its life...succeeded in crowding out of the conversation at most architecture schools: urbanism, the politics of housing, race, gender, [etc.]...to keep up an elaborate charade that the field is somehow independent of them is to warp architects' view of their place in the culture from the start. - Los Angeles Times

Diana Budds: The Case For Reverse-Engineering Design Briefs: "Designers are as much problem seekers as problem solvers," Jessica Helfand says: If we want phones that won't shatter, tech that's not instantly obsolete, and strong solutions to our world's increasingly sophisticated problems, we need to change how designers are designed. - Fast Company / Co.Design

Lisa Chamberlain: Richard Florida and The New Urban Crisis: The urbanist talks about his new book, spatial inequality, urban sorting, and the daunting task of solving these problems in the age of Trump. - Common Edge

Curry Stone Design Prize announces May's Social Design Circle honorees who answer the question: Can We Design Social Engagement? -- buildingcommunityWORKSHOP (BCWorkshop); Fallen Fruit; Farm Cultural Park; Institute of Play; Project Row House; Public Works; Theaster Gates/Rebuild Foundation; Rural Studio; Sergio Palleroni/Center for Public Interest Design - Curry Stone Design Prize

Nicholas Korody: Designing For and With the Landscape: an Interview with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects: ...strives to make buildings that bring attention towards, rather than away from, the landscape...On the occasion of the release of a new monograph...[they] discuss their influences, practice, and philosophy. "The Work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects: Economy as Ethic" by Robert McCarter - Archinect

Cooper Hewitt 2017 National Design Awards Winners: ...celebrates design as a vital humanistic tool in shaping the world... -- Hartmut Esslinger/frog design;

Susan S. Szenasy/Metropolis Magazine; Craig L. Wilkins; Design Trust for Public Space; MASS Design Group; Deborah Berke Partners; Jennifer Morla/Morla Design; Stamen Design; Surfacedesign; Joe Doucet- Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

AIA College of Fellows awards 2017 Latrobe Prize to Northeastern University Researchers for 'Future-Use Architecture': Award [\$100,000] will help fund the investigation and documentation of the tectonic and performative attributes that facilitate long-term use and persistent change of buildings. -- Peter Wiederspahn/Wiederspahn Architecture; Michelle Laboy/FieLDworkshop; David Fannon- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Toronto couple to receive RAIC 2017 Young Architect Award: ...Andrew Batay-Csorba, and Jodi Batay-Csorba...established Batay-Csorba Architects...in 2012...award recognizes architects 40 years old or younger...intended to inspire other young architects...Special Mention to Ken O. Lum, 40, an Associate at Adamson Associates- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

Australian artists, writers and actors call on Fairfax Media not to cut arts coverage: ...to shed 125 jobs, prompting a week-long strike by its journalists. Guardian Australia understands that positions being abolished will include all dedicated arts, film and books writers at the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald...[Monday's SMH] ran without an arts page.- Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Citroën Cultural Centre, Brussels: two-stage international competition: transform an Art Deco Citroën garage into a contemporary art and architecture museum; deadline: June 6- Urban Development Corporation (SAU-MSI) of the Brussels-Capital Region

ANN feature: Shane O'Toole: Preface to "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": It is a truism to say that journalism is the first draft of history. Historians always place great weight on contemporary accounts...a work of architecture is not complete until it has been written about.- ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, May 10, 2017

- Hatherley considers Vienna and Budapest as "battlefields in an unfolding European crisis of identity and confidence" through their architectural histories (a Department of Gender Mainstreaming included).
- Morris explains why "Brexit does not have to mean pulling up the drawbridge" as Londonon moves forward in engaging with a number of host cities.
- Kamin delves into why the Obama library "(don't call it a library) needs tweaking": it's "an architecture of disappearance - an anti-monument" - and "unclear what this building will contain."
- Davidson visits H&deM and Viñoly's new luxury towers in NYC that are more like "fancy prisons for billionaires - each "a vertical Alcatraz" ("a Sauron-like tower" included).
- A "controversial new plan" for the Alamo has drawn "decidedly mixed, if not outright hostile" reactions (it "goes before the San Antonio City Council for conceptual approval" tomorrow).
- Middleton "excoriates architects who fail to take a commission for a bit of summer fun seriously" when it comes to "pavilion season": "even though it's temporary, it's still architecture" (and time for Brits to design the Serpentine Pavilion every so often?).
- Perhaps the Mumbai-based School of Environment and Architecture will cheer him: its Serpentine-like "SEA Pavilion" program will "invite architects to build an experimental structure on the school's grounds every year."
- Peters says "R.I.P. parking lots" as "cities begin to realize that a slab of asphalt for storing cars isn't the best use of valuable urban space."
- Budds parses NYC's Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines, which "might be the first step toward a more systematized approach in cities where the effects of climate change are already being felt."
- Green cheers D.C. reaching "72% of the things it set out to do" with its "ambitious sustainability plan," but "sustainability and equality must be considered two sides of the same coin."
- Roosegaarde is planning to place 25 of his smog-eating towers in Beijing's public parks - India and Mexico will be next.
- Rogers offers a most thoughtful take on the "complicated architecture of Albert Speer, Jr., and a career spent trying "to avoid comparisons to his father."
- Welton welcomes three new projects that "promise a new look for Raleigh," and cheers the city for "taking the lead as a potential catalyst for excellence in architecture."
- LMN's "ethereal" Hyatt Regency, "the largest hotel in the Pacific Northwest," is taking shape in Seattle.
- Jolliffe hails the "courage" of a new campaign by RIBA and the Architects Benevolent Society to help architects tackle mental health issues.

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Podreka; Elsa Prochazka; Ödon Lechner; Imre Makovecz; Friedensreich Hundertwasser; Mária Siklós [images]- Places Journal

Joe Morris/Duggan Morris Architects: Architects exporting the uniqueness of place: Brexit does not have to mean pulling up the drawbridge. He draws inspiration from international localists Lina Bo Bardi, Gaudi and Gehry: London...through its direct engagement with a number of host cities, will express the optimistic entrepreneurial spirit this city reinforces in each of us. A spirit which we believe can be exported. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Blair Kamin: Tower at Obama center (don't call it a library) needs tweaking: ...a victim of the digital age...relegated to the status of a one-story structure covered by a rooftop park...an architecture of disappearance - an anti-monument...it's unclear what this building will contain...How do you design a monument in the digital age? ...the architects and the former president still have work to do before they get it right. -- Frederick Law Olmsted; Calvert Vaux; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Ralph Appelbaum Associates - Chicago Tribune

Justin Davidson: Fancy Prisons for Billionaires Are Reshaping the Manhattan Skyline: To be sure, the inmates of levitating dungeons like 432 Park and 56 Leonard believe they are being pampered...Each is a vertical Alcatraz...I toured two high-security facilities... -- Herzog & de Meuron; Rafael Viñoly - New York Magazine

Alyssa Morris/Texas Architect magazine: The Alamo is forgettable. A controversial new plan could change that: ...aims to restore, at least in gesture, conditions of the mission before it was destroyed...A group of prominent San Antonio architects...have signed an open letter, calling for the planners to rethink their design. -- George C. Skarmeas/Preservation Design Partnership [images]- Houston Chronicle

Mark Middleton/Grimshaw: Pavilions: There's no excuse for leaving rigour at the park gate: He excoriates architects and their clients who fail to take a commission for a bit of summer fun seriously: ...most practices seem to grasp the publicity part firmly while retaining a kitten-like grip on the architecture...What [they] fail to understand...is that even though it's temporary, it's still architecture. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Mumbai-based architecture school spearheads an experimental pavilion program: Samir Raut of...studio eight twenty-three, designed the inaugural pavilion for The School of Environment and Architecture..."Make a House"...an ode to craftsmanship and detail: "SEA Pavilion" looks to invite architects to build an experimental structure on the school's grounds every year. [images]- Architectural Digest India

Adele Peters: These Cities Are Replacing The Worst Kind Of Infrastructure With The Best: R.I.P. parking lots: ...cities begin to realize that a slab of asphalt for storing cars isn't the best use of valuable urban space...Some cities...are already building parking garages...designed to be converted to other uses when car ownership drops. -- Adrian Benepe/Trust for Public Land; SWA [images]-



Diana Budds: Inside N.Y.C.'s Plan To Fight Climate Change Through Architecture: New York City wants architects to start designing for bigger, badder weather...doesn't have the luxury of pitting politics against science..mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency released...Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines...might be the first step toward a more systematized approach in cities...where the effects of climate change are already being felt.-
Fast Company / Co.Design

Jared Green: D.C. Becoming More Sustainable, But Not Everyone Benefits: It has been four years since Washington, D.C. released its ambitious sustainability plan...has accomplished 72% of the things it set out to do...need more thoughtful inclusiveness efforts...Sustainability and equality must be considered two sides of the same coin.- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Dutch artist creates 23-ft. tower that sucks in smog: ...designer and architect Daan Roosegaarde has created a "Smog Free Tower"...tested in Rotterdam... [he] will be placing 25 such towers in Beijing's public parks and plans to introduce the technology in India and Mexico. -- Studio Roosegaarde [image]-
Blouin News

Thomas Rogers: The Complicated Architecture of Albert Speer, Jr.: Controversy surrounding one of his projects [2022 World Cup, in Qatar] has invited what he has worked his entire career to avoid: comparisons to his father, Hitler's favorite architect: He has risen to the top of the German planning world over the past 50 years, thanks to his reputation for sustainability and "human scale" architecture... -- Speer and Partners- New Yorker

J. Michael Welton: Three architectural projects promise a new look for Raleigh: The skyline is a key definer of Raleigh's brand, so how it's shaped in coming years is no small matter...[the city] is taking the lead and acting as a potential catalyst for excellence in architecture. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Clearscapes; Duda Paine Architects; Sasaki; Michael Van Valkenburgh- News & Observer (North Carolina)

Enormous and 'ethereal' Hyatt Regency hotel takes shape in Seattle: ...the largest hotel in the Pacific Northwest...inspired by a diverse mix of urban influences, particularly the city's skyline. -- LMN Architects; Zena Design Group [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Eleanor Jolliffe: Mental health issues: ...a new campaign launched by RIBA and the Architects Benevolent Society to help: It takes courage to tackle these issues, I sincerely hope our profession can collectively display that type of courage. - BD/Building Design (UK)

ANN feature: Shane O'Toole: Preface to "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": It is a truism to say that journalism is the first draft of history. Historians always place great weight on contemporary accounts...a work of architecture is not complete until it has been written about.- ArchNewsNow.com

ARM Architecture (Ashton Raggatt McDougall): Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, Geelong, Australia: ...an early Australian picturesque of the beautiful ruin...recalls the great civic gestures of the 19th century, a sign when the dome was symbolic of democracy, enlightenment and civil society. -- Taylor Cullity Lethlean [images]

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Today's News - Thursday, May 11, 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday are no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 16.

- ANN is pleased to launch "Left Coast Reflections," a new series by Bloszies: #1: The Sustainable Spoon: ... "humans are able to create sustainable artifacts. But as designers of the largest artifacts on the planet, we architects need to be especially vigilant."
- "Good luck, Australia" - and luck may be needed if the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility loses its funding.
- Green, on a brighter note, parses the Earth Optimism Summit in DC with a two-part report that offers "reasons to be optimistic about the future of the environment."
- Q&A with NTHP's Meeks re: using preservation for economic development: "We're not about casting things in amber and turning everything into a museum," and her new book, "The Past and Future City."
- Libeskind urges Durham University to save its 1966 Dunelm House, saying the proposal to flatten it is "planned amnesia. They should be a little bit more creative" (university's response: "No final decision has been made").
- Build Toronto selects a design team from Toronto and Copenhagen for the Etobicoke Civic Centre.
- Eyeful of P+W's new Tukwila Library outside of Seattle that includes lots of public art and sustainable design.
- Q&A with Peter Elliott, the 2017 Australian Institute of Architecture Gold Medalist re: "the importance of creativity in educational design, and the incredible satisfaction of designing for the arts."
- A good reason to be in Toronto next week: the North American debut of ARCHITECT@WORK, "spotlighting the most anticipated trends for the architecture and design industry."
- One we couldn't resist: the McMansion Hell blog "is like a snarky Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" for what ails suburban developments - and an "architectural grammar scold."
- Call for entries: EOI for the Centre for Music in London (international).

Weekend diversions:

- Grozdanic parses Meades' BBC documentary "Bunkers, Brutalism and Bloody-mindedness: Concrete Poetry," and "why Brutalism is the real star in spy films."
- The Museum of London launches "City Now City Future," a year-long exploration of urban change in London and around the world.
- Eyeful of what you'll see in "Alvar Aalto - Art and The Modern Form" at the Ateneum Art Museum in Helsinki, which includes "work by his closest artist friends."
- At the Danish Architecture Centre, "Hiroshi Sambuichi: Moving Materials" puts the spotlight on the Japanese architect.
- Davidson parses "The New Urban Crisis," Florida's "glum new manifesto," and Bloomberg and Pope's "Climate of Hope" that "glows with the optimism of levelheaded reason."
- Florida tackles "the new suburban crisis" (from his book): "The middle of our suburban geography is being hollowed out."
- Green cheers "The New Grand Strategy: Restoring America's Prosperity, Security, and Sustainability in the 21st Century": "If the U.S. 'can get its ass in gear,'" it will create the "economy of the future."

- Q&A with Garbacik re: "Ghosts of Seattle Past," and "why what's happening in Seattle should matter to urban dwellers everywhere."
- Budd has fun parsing Kasza's "Concrete Photobook" that comes with a concrete cover: "It is waterproof, oil proof, UV and radiation resistant."

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ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #1: The Sustainable Spoon: The idea that humans are able to create sustainable artifacts is here to stay. But as designers of the largest artifacts on the planet, we architects need to be especially vigilant. - ArchNewsNow.com

Nobody Mentioned It, But Do We Stand To Lose Our Best Defence Against Climate Change? Good luck, Australia. We're going to need it: You've probably never heard of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility...indications are we never will again...only government-funded body which takes established climate science, assesses the likely impacts of climate change, then tells us what the heck we should do about it...NCCARF's funding is set to be cut off. - Huffington Post Australia

Jared Green: Reasons to Be Optimistic About the Future of the Environment (Parts 1 & 2): ...Earth Optimism Summit in Washington, D.C...one inspiring environmental success story after another...a concerted effort to change the narrative - from one of relentless anger and despair to one of progress and a cautious optimism...to highlight what is working today and figure out the ways to replicate and scale up successes. [link to Part 2 at bottom of page]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

When historic buildings make economic sense: Q&A with Stephanie Meeks/National Trust for Historic Preservation, re: using preservation for economic development: "We're not about casting things in amber and turning everything into a museum." ["The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities"]- Marketplace.org / Minnesota Public Radio

Daniel Libeskind urges Durham University to save Dunelm House: ...described proposal...as "planned amnesia...I appreciate the university's quest to make a sustainable transformation of the building. But that doesn't mean they have to tear it down. They should be a little bit more creative." -- Architects' Co-Partnership; Ove Arup (1966) [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Build Toronto announces winning design team for Etobicoke Civic Centre: ...part of the six-hectare (14-acre) Westwood Theatre Lands redevelopment. -- Adamson Associates Architects; Henning Larsen Architects; PMA Landscape Architect [images]- Canadian Architect

Take a peek inside the new Tukwila Library: King County Library System's newly-completed branch includes public art and sustainable design: ...roof is constructed with cross-laminated timber [CLT], a rising star in sustainable building materials..“sequesters the same amount of carbon emitted by 91 cars in one year.” -- Perkins+Will [images]- Curbed Seattle

Q&A: Peter Elliott on the enormous satisfaction of designing for the arts:



...awarded Australian architecture's highest honour: the 2017 Australian Institute of Architecture Gold Medal...he talks about the importance of creativity in educational design- Architecture & Design (Australia)

ARCHITECT@WORK, Toronto, May 17-18: Spotlighting the most anticipated trends for the architecture and design industry, from breakthroughs in technologies to new material applications; North American debut.- ARCHITECT@WORK

The Worst McMansion Sins, From Useless Pilasters to Hellish Transom Windows: Kate Wagner's blog McMansion Hell is like a snarky DSM-IV for all that ails contemporary over-building in suburban developments...is at heart an architectural grammar scold.- Hyperallergic

Call for entries: Expression of Interest/EOI (Selection Questionnaire/SQ) (international): Centre for Music in London (partners: Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall School of Music & Drama); deadline: June 9- City of London Corporation

Lidija Grozdanic: Architecture at the Movies: Why Brutalism Is the Real Star in Spy Films: Jonathan Meades...author and narrator of BBC's documentary "Bunkers, Brutalism and Bloodymindedness: Concrete Poetry"...resurgent fascination with the Cold War era parallels a concurrent fetishization of Brutalism among creatives. [images]- Architizer

"City Now City Future": introducing a season: From May 2017 to April 2018, the Museum of London...hosting over 100 events, exhibitions, creative commissions, talks and debates that explore urban change in London and around the world. - Museum of London

"Alvar Aalto - Art And The Modern Form" at the Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki: ...also features work by his closest artist friends, including Jean Arp, Alexander Calder, Fernand Léger and László Moholy-Nagy; co-produced by the Vitra Design Museum and the Alvar Aalto Museum; May 11 thru September 24 [images]- Ateneum (Helsinki, Finland)

"Hiroshi Sambuichi: Moving Materials": Sun, wind, and water are the essential elements of Japanese architect Sambuichi's approach...An architecture combining the non-moving materials with the natural phenomena, or in Sambuichi's words "moving materials" of a site; thru June 25, Danish Architecture Centre [images]- ArcSpace

Justin Davidson: Are American Cities in Crisis? ...Richard Florida's glum new manifesto, "The New Urban Crisis"...a book of lamentations...His pessimism is new..."Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet" by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope...glows with the optimism of levelheaded reason. - New York Magazine

Richard Florida: The New Suburban Crisis: Once the key driver of the American dream, the suburbs have reached the end of a long era of cheap growth...The middle of our suburban geography is being hollowed out... [adapted from "The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class - and What We Can Do About It"]-

Jared Green: A New Strategy for American Sustainability: "The New Grand Strategy: Restoring America's Prosperity, Security, and Sustainability in the 21st Century" by Mark Mykleby, Patrick Doherty, and Joel Makower: If the U.S. "can get its ass in gear," focusing on walkable communities, sustainable agriculture, and new housing materials will lead to a resurgence in jobs...and create the "economy of the future." - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

In Fast-Changing Seattle, an Effort Not to Forget the Past: A new project gathers the collective memory of places that no longer exist: "Ghosts of Seattle Past" edited by Jaimee Garbacik...anthology of essays, interviews, photography, and graphic art...Q&A re: what she learned along the way, and why what's happening in Seattle should matter to urban dwellers everywhere.- Atlas Obscura

Diana Budd: A Book About Concrete Architecture - Made From Concrete: You can judge this book by its cover: "Concrete Photobook" by Budapest-based photographer Gábor Kasza..."It is waterproof, oil proof, UV and radiation resistant." - Fast Company / Co.Design

ANN feature: Shane O'Toole: Preface to "One Hundred & One Hosannas for Architecture": It is a truism to say that journalism is the first draft of history. Historians always place great weight on contemporary accounts...a work of architecture is not complete until it has been written about.- ArchNewsNow.com

This week at ARCsplace

ARM Architecture (Ashton Raggatt McDougall): Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, Geelong, Australia: ...an early Australian picturesque of the beautiful ruin...recalls the great civic gestures of the 19th century, a sign when the dome was symbolic of democracy, enlightenment and civil society. -- Taylor Cullity Lethlean [images]

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Tuesday, May 16, 2017

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of "Hiroshi Sambuichi: Moving Materials" at the Danish Architecture Centre.
- ELEMENTAL wins Qatar Museums' Art Mill competition with a design described as "a serene artwork, where the structure is the architecture" (whatever that means).
- King cheers 3 affordable housing projects: "the trio offer fresh proof of how low-income housing developments strengthen their communities."
- Amazon will be sharing its new Seattle tower with non-profit Mary's Place, "creating a place for hundreds of homeless on its shiny new Seattle campus."
- At a conference in Lagos, architects were "urged to come up with cheap and affordable housing designs," and "prove their relevance with a revolution for architectural development in Nigeria."
- Hume cheers two Toronto projects: rather than "monolithic structures designed by accountants disguised as architects, they embrace and celebrate the city."
- Baltimore's "Bruce Wayne" taps Elkus Manfredi to plan a massive redevelopment on a post-industrial waterfront, hoping to transform the city into "the coolest city in America."
- Piiparinan uses Cleveland as a lesson that shows the "wrong way to grow a city": "Inequality isn't success. It's an admission that cities haven't succeeded yet."
- Lewis parses the similar challenges and contrasting concerns between Beijing and Washington, DC.
- Outside of D.C., Montgomery County is pushing to preserve its "Mad Men" buildings that "hark back to a time when the architecture moved faster than the culture" so their "stories can continue to be told."
- Al explains how Hong Kong has "figured out how to make shopping malls a sensible part of the urban fabric," but "can this model go global?"
- Chipperfield brands Brexit "stupid" - it's "going to be very bad for British architecture...building walls is just the daftest thing ever."
- Foster says "architects need to put Brexit behind them and move on."
- Meanwhile, a notable cadre of architects is demanding clarity on the status of EU nationals: "Overseas staff must not be used as 'negotiating chip' in Brexit negotiations."
- The end of an era - or three: Tigerman and McCurry are retiring.
- Two housing projects in Amsterdam and Brussels "won big": eyefuls of the 2017 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award winner and the 2017 Emerging Architect winner.
- The 2017 AIA/HUD Secretary's Awards celebrate "projects that demonstrate affordable, accessible, and well-designed housing."
- Call for entries: National Museum of World Writing in Incheon, South Korea.
- Call for entries: Construction Container Facelift competition.

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"Hiroshi Sambuichi: Moving Materials": ...an example of how the poetic concept of taking water, air and light, and turning that into architecture, can go beyond just being a romantic idea. [He] demonstrates the value of data and empirical evidence to inform his spatial forms. Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, thru June 25 -- Sambuichi Architects [images]

ELEMENTAL Wins Qatar Museums' Art Mill International Design Competition: ...design was described by the jury as "a serene artwork, where the structure is the architecture" [on Doha's waterfront]... concept took as its inspiration from the rhythmic monumental grain silos...of the original Flour Mills on the site... -- Alejandro Aravena [images]- Malcolm Reading Consultants / Qatar Museums

John King: 3 Alameda County affordable housing complexes add to communities: ...the trio offer fresh proof of how low-income housing developments strengthen their communities...extra density can be beguiling...with luck, will help make the skeptics see that affordable housing is a Bay Area asset in more ways than one. -- Van Meter Williams Pollack; Ankrom Moisan; HKIT Architects [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Amazon creating a place for hundreds of homeless on its shiny new Seattle campus: Mary's Place, a nonprofit that temporarily converts unused buildings into shelters...will soon have a permanent home - embedded in the heart of Amazon.com's burgeoning Seattle domain. -- Graphite Design Group [images]- Seattle Times

Don tasks architects on home designs for blighted urban areas: With 70% of Nigeria's population living in unplanned and inhabitable slums, architects have been urged to come up with cheap and affordable housing designs to reverse the trend...to prove their relevance...with a revolution for architectural development in Nigeria. -- Lagos Architects Forum; Nigeria Institute of Architecture/NIA; Kunlé Adeyemi/NLÉ; Tonye Braide- The Guardian (Nigeria)

Christopher Hume: How to avoid the next St. James Town: Two projects embrace the city, rather than treating it as something to be tolerated: The Well and Mirvish Village represent the sort of projects cities can only hope for. Rather than fill the property with monolithic structures designed by accountants disguised as architects, these schemes embrace and celebrate the city... -- Adamson Associates Architects; Hariri Pontarini Architects; BDP; Claude Cormier + Associés; Wallman Architects; architectsAlliance; Henriquez Partners Architects; E.R.A. Architects; Janet Rosenberg & Studio- Toronto Star

Charm City's lucky charm: Under Armour's Kevin Plank launches a \$5.5 billion redevelopment to transform Baltimore into "the coolest city in America": ...plans to build a 3.9-million-sf headquarters on a 58-acre campus within Port Covington, a post-industrial area along the Patapsco River...would dwarf Baltimore's popular Inner Harbor... -- Elkus Manfredi Architects; STV- Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

Richey Piiparinan: The Wrong Way to Grow a City: A lesson from Cleveland: To

avoid deepening inequality, prepare for economic growth before it starts: Today's representative of the "successful" city is how unequal it's become...Those cities with the best foresight will have the greatest ability to put equity-based policies in place...Inequality isn't success. It's an admission that cities haven't succeeded yet. - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Roger K. Lewis: Beijing and Washington, DC, face similar challenges: Although [they] are different in many ways, both world capitals struggle with transit, parking and housing woes...significant contrast concerns planning policies and urban design characteristics. In Beijing, skyscraping verticality is the favored scale. In the District, horizontality rules.- Washington Post

In Segregated Postwar Montgomery County, Modern Architecture Forged A Path Ahead: ... "Mad Men" buildings hark back to a time when the architecture moved faster than the culture: Even as modernist developments sprang up across the suburbs in the 1950s...much of the Washington region was still a backwards-looking place for racial and ethnic minorities...the county is pushing for that architecture to be preserved so its stories can continue to be told. -- Charles Goodman- WAMU.org - American University Radio

Stefan Al: The Mall Isn't Dead, It's Just Changing: Hong Kong figured out how to make shopping malls a sensible part of the urban fabric. Can this model go global? ...developers...are beginning to closely copy Hong Kong's projects. But will they improve upon the suburban shopping mall's faults - or simply exacerbate them? -- Victor Gruen- The Conversation

David Chipperfield: "Brexit one of the worst decisions ever made": Britain's vote to pull out of the European Union has been branded "stupid"... "going to be very bad for British architecture"...building walls is just the daftest thing ever." - CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Firms need to "get on" with Brexit, Norman Foster says...: ...firms had to turn the UK's impending withdrawal from the EU into an opportunity – rather than "regret" the decision to leave + On tall buildings: "Total absence of planning" -- Foster + Partners- BD/Building Design (UK)

...as leading architects demand clarity on status of EU nationals: Overseas staff must not be used as "negotiating chip" in Brexit negotiations, Rogers, Chipperfield and Levete warn...they are "appalled" at the way EU staff in their offices are being kept in the dark about their status... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Stanley Tigerman and Margaret McCurry retiring: The pair, married in 1979, are said to be closing their Chicago office: ...they will make a formal announcement in the coming weeks. -- Tigerman McCurry Architects- Curbed Chicago

2017 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award: Two housing projects won big...DeFlat Kleiburg in Amsterdam by NL Architects and XVW architectuur...2017 Emerging Architect prize went to Brussels-based practice MSA/V+ for the NAVEZ social housing project. [images]- Archinect

2017 AIA/HUD Secretary's Awards: Celebrating projects that demonstrate affordable, accessible, and well-designed housing. -- Dahlin Group Architecture

Planning; SMR Architects/7 Directions Architects & Planners/Third Place Design Cooperative; Trivers Associates [images]- American Institute of Architects (AIA) / U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

Call for entries: International Competition for National Museum of World Writing, Songdo International City, Incheon, South Korea; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 1 (submissions due September 1)- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea

Call for entries: Construction Container Facelift competition (international): Neutralize the negative visual impact of the construction containers on cityscapes by using them as an unclaimed resource to enhance the city; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): May 24 (submissions due October 6)- Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert) / VUDIS

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #1: The Sustainable Spoon: The idea that humans are able to create sustainable artifacts is here to stay. But as designers of the largest artifacts on the planet, we architects need to be especially vigilant. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, May 17, 2017

- Hawthorne has an interesting take on Williams and Tsien's preliminary design for the Obama library: it "landed on the wrong side of the line dividing a sober design from a somber one. A little zeal in the next version - some clearer signs of energy and life - would go a long way."
- Brussat re: Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia: "I know the design is excellent because it irks Inga Saffron."
- Buday finds a lesson for the design community in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame": "a building without an engaging oral, prose or graphic narrative is meaningless and eventually forgotten. Architecture is more than an empty shell to be filled - it's a story to be told."
- Dickinson explains why following the money makes architects "economically bipolar - psychologically validated by booms and crushed by busts," and important lessons to be learned from "this doldrum decade."
- Apple offers a peek at plans to convert a Carnegie Library in Washington, DC, into a new store: "there are bound to be questions about handing one of the city's more cherished buildings to a corporation."
- Capps raises questions about Apple's "plans to turn a Beaux Arts gem into a lavish gadget store - there should be a better public use of such a cherished site."
- On a brighter note, Brooks + Scarpa's The Six housing project for disabled veterans in L.A.'s MacArthur Park neighborhood "breaks the prescriptive mold of traditional affordable housing" with a "focus on community spirit" (fab photos!).
- The planned \$1.2 billion, nearly 30-building West 2nd District in Reno, Nevada, will be "the world's first high desert biome eco-district."
- A look at 7 megaprojects that will transform Chinese cities by 2050 (mega is putting it mildly!).
- Stott, on a lighter note, offers 6 of "the kookiest Chinese copies. Some are baffling, some are kind of cute - all of them are in some way entertaining" (PompiDON'T and Zaha Hadidn't included).
- A look at why Corbu was appointed to design Chandigarh: "It is all about abandoning class-based system of housing."
- Florida parses the Creative Class Diversity Index: "metros with larger concentrations of key creative class minority groups have higher levels of overall creative class diversity."
- JustDesign.US is a new initiative launched by an "alliance of architecture pressure groups" that "aims to spotlight U.S. architecture firms that treat workers fairly."
- An Australian studio launches A Reparative List For Your Male-Dominated Design Conference, an international directory of "female creatives" that "aims to tackle the 'stone-aged' under-representation of women in design."
- The Architectural League of New York 2017 President's Medal goes to His Highness the Aga Khan in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Aga Khan Award in Architecture.
- A team called T+E+A+M is tapped to design the 4th annual Ragdale Ring outdoor theater in Chicago's North Shore - the competition is "architecturally adventurous, and often playfully eccentric."
- The Malaysian Institute of Architects hands out "the Malaysian architecture Oscars."
- One we couldn't resist: the winner of the What's That Thing? Award for bad public art is "a clumsy, aggressive, cheap-looking new sculpture overlooking Belfast. Haven't the people of Northern Ireland suffered enough?"



Christopher Hawthorne: Design for Obama library and museum off to surprisingly somber start: ...an architectural first draft can be surprisingly talkative. So what does this one have to say? ...landed just on the wrong side of the line dividing a sober design from a somber one...a bit sepulchral...A little zeal in the next version of the proposal - some clearer signs of energy and life - would go a long way. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Dina Griffin- Los Angeles Times

David Brussat: Philly's new revo museum: ...Museum of the American Revolution...I know the design is excellent because it irks Inga Saffron...Robert A.M. Stern Architects has approached the museum's design as a revolutionary...tried to seek a balance between traditional classicism and the context in which the museum sits...a mixture of both classical and modernist buildings.- Architecture Here and There

Richard Buday: It's a book. It's a building. It's a behavioral intervention!: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"...central character isn't a person; it's a building, which Victor Hugo considered sentient...The lesson for the design community is clear: a building without an engaging oral, prose or graphic narrative is meaningless and eventually forgotten. Architecture is more than an empty shell to be filled - it's a story to be told.- Common Edge

Duo Dickinson: Building Madness: How the Boom and Bust Mentality Distorts Architecture: Architects are economically bipolar...psychologically validated by booms and crushed by busts...If architects valued helping people to build what made sense, they would create a microeconomy of value that is less subject to boom and bust...regardless of economic climate or cost...architects keep following the money, instead of the value found in our expertise.- Common Edge

Apple offers first peek at plans to convert D.C.'s Carnegie Library into new store: Apple's vision? A place for art exhibitions, workshops and coding classes for children. Oh, and iPhone sales: ...there are bound to be questions about handing one of the city's more cherished buildings to a corporation. [images]- Washington Post

Kriston Capps: D.C.: Don't Give the Carnegie Library to Apple: The company plans to turn a Beaux Arts gem into a lavish gadget store. But there should be a better public use of such a cherished site: Giving the [library] to Apple, under the flimsy premise that [it] is somehow a cultural organization, ignores the enormous appetite for authentic art experiences in the District.- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Brooks + Scarpa completes affordable housing for disabled veterans in Los Angeles: "The Six" breaks the prescriptive mold of traditional affordable housing by its approach to distinguishing the public and private zones...focus on community spirit... -- LandStudio360 LandscapeArchitecture [images]- designboom

Cacti Urbanism: \$1.2 billion eco-friendly district will rise in Reno, Nevada: ...the world's first high desert biome eco-district...The nearly 30-building West 2nd District will provide needed market-rate and workforce housing as well, with 20% available as affordable housing... -- Don J Clark Group; Office of Cheryl Barton [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

7 megaprojects that will transform Chinese cities by 2050: ...a look at some of China's largest real estate developments... -- gmp Architects von Gerkan, Marg and Partners; Broadway Malyan; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Sasaki Associates [images]- Business Insider

Rory Stott: The Kookiest Chinese Copies, from PompiDON'T Centre to Chapel at WRONGchamp: Some are baffling, some are in a way impressive, some are even (dare we say it?) even kind of cute. In short, all of them are in some way entertaining. Here are 6 of the strangest. -- No-man Foster-Designed Gherkin; Zaha Hadidn't; Sydney Nopera House; Not-a Botta [images]- ArchDaily

Why Was Only Le Corbusier Appointed to Design Chandigarh? The City Beautiful boasts of being a stalwart in urban planning and quality living...The concept of a Contemporary City and a Radiant City was the magnificent creation of Le Corbusier only...It is all about abandoning class-based system of housing... [images]- ChandigarhX (India)

Richard Florida: Mapping the Diversity of the Creative Class: Racial and ethnic diversity spurs economic progress; sameness spells economic segregation: ...metros with larger concentrations of key creative class minority groups have higher levels of overall creative class diversity. -- Creative Class Diversity Index- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

New U.S. initiative aims to spotlight architecture firms that treat workers fairly: An alliance of architecture pressure groups...has launched JustDesign.US, a database of studios that treat their staff well and provide equal opportunities for women...initiative hopes to draw attention to, and eradicate, equality issues surrounding the workplace. -- The Architecture Lobby; Yale School of Architecture Equality in Design; Harvard Graduate School of Design Women in Design- Dezeen

Directory of female creatives aims to tackle the "stone-aged" under-representation of women in design: Australian studio Double Days has created a publicly editable directory...that can be used by conference organisers to source female speakers..."A Reparative List For Your Male-Dominated Design Conference"..organised by country and range from graduates to vice presidents. - Dezeen

The Architectural League of New York 2017 President's Medal: ... recognizing His Highness the Aga Khan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Aga Khan Award in Architecture...to identify architectural projects that successfully address the needs and aspirations of communities in which Muslims have a significant presence. - Architectural League of New York

Land Of Illusion: T+E+A+M tapped to design this year's Ragdale Ring outdoor theater: ...in Chicago's North Shore...competition, and the accompanying Adrian Smith Prize, have proven to be architecturally adventurous, and often playfully eccentric..."LIVING PICTURE" superimposes images of the original 1912 Ragdale Ring onto a set of lightweight objects... -- Thom Moran, Ellie Abrons, Adam Fure, Meredith Miller [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

These are the winners of the Malaysian architecture Oscars: A collective sigh of

relief probably accompanied the announcements ... -- Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) Awards/Malaysian Institute of Architects; C.Y. Chan Architect; Veritas Architects; Arkitek JFN; Atsa Architects; Architect T.Y. Au; Alma Architects & Planners [images]- The Star / Star2.com (Malaysia)

The winner of the What's That Thing? Award for bad public art is...: "Origin" by Solas Creative, a clumsy, aggressive, cheap-looking new sculpture overlooking Belfast: Haven't the people of Northern Ireland suffered enough? [images]- The Spectator (UK)

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #1: The Sustainable Spoon: The idea that humans are able to create sustainable artifacts is here to stay. But as designers of the largest artifacts on the planet, we architects need to be especially vigilant.- ArchNewsNow.com

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"Hiroshi Sambuchi: Moving Materials": ...an example of how the poetic concept of taking water, air and light, and turning that into architecture, can go beyond just being a romantic idea. [He] demonstrates the value of data and empirical evidence to inform his spatial forms. Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, thru June 25 -- Sambuchi Architects [images]

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Today's News - Thursday, May 18, 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday are no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 23.

- ANN feature: Belogolovsky's never-before published 2015 Q&A with the late Vito Acconci reveals his highly personal way of imagining his architecture.
- Betsky explains why "awards should not be bestowed on buildings that boast sustainable credentials but lack other design merits" (referring to the AIA COTE Top Ten Awards).
- Hosey's thoughtful rebuttal to Betsky: good and green design coming together is long overdue, but "which is more acceptable: to look good but perform poorly, or to perform well but look bad?"
- Ulam queries Diller and Renfro re: their "weather-bending (and politically charged)" 32-acre Zaryadye Park in Moscow, and its "broader political context."
- Meanwhile, Moscow must not have been pleased when "thousands turned out to protest" a proposal to raze 4,500 Soviet-era apartment buildings (and relocate 1.6 million residents!); The Constructivist Project hopes to "promote and save this radical architecture."
- Meantime, WMF launches Modern Century, an Instagram campaign to save Modern buildings.
- On a brighter note, the Srihatta-Samdani Art Centre and Sculpture Park by URBANA is set to open next year in a rural area of Bangladesh, about 150 miles from Dhaka (looks cool!).
- Call for entries: Adelaide Creative Community Hub international architecture competition.

Weekend diversions:

- Glancey cheers "Citizen Jane: Battle for the City": Jane Jacobs' "message is surely as pertinent as it was half a century ago."
- Kolson Hurley hails the BBC's "real-estate porn" show "Grand Designs," that "smuggles serious architectural concepts into a deceptively pleasant package," now on Netflix.
- The NZ Architecture & Design Film Festival opens in Wellington, then travels to Dunedin and Christchurch, New Zealand (lots of trailers!).
- There's tons going on during NYCxDesign, including all-female shows: "I would prefer if we didn't need to have all-female shows, but I will be a part of them until we don't need to have them anymore," says Stout.
- A good reason to head to London: the 8th annual Clerkenwell Design Week is "jam-packed with creative businesses and architects" (we'll get there someday!).
- Way cheers "Quest for Beauty: The Architecture, Landscapes, and Collections of John Yeon," and work by "the godfather of Pacific Northwest modernism," on view at the Portland Art Museum.
- Cliff notes: "Your 1,200 word bluffer's guide" to "The New Urban Crisis," Florida's "lamentation and encyclopedia."
- Misra's Q&A with Hyra, who "lays out his findings" that "gentrification doesn't mean diversity" in "Race, Class, Politics in the Cappuccino City."
- Q&A with Stefan Al re: "The Strip: Las Vegas and the Architecture of the American Dream": "If you look past the crap tables and slot machines to the architecture, you can see the history of U.S. recreation and social change."

- Smith's "Designing Detroit: Wirt Rowland and the Rise of Modern American Architecture" is a "comprehensive and meticulously detailed" portrait of a little-known architect who had a big impact on shaping his city.



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ANN feature: Vladimir Belogolovsky: One-on-One: "I wanted to be in the middle of things": Interview with Vito Acconci: In this never-before published Q&A from 2015, the late Acconci revealed his highly personal way of imagining his architecture as a pursuit of creating a total work of art that is at once poetry and architecture. - ArchNewsNow.com

Aaron Betsky: There should be no top 10 prizes for sustainable architecture: Awards should not be bestowed on buildings that boast sustainable credentials but lack other design merits: The AIA COTE Top Ten unfortunately seems to me to give the wrong message. [\[images\]](#) - Dezeen

Lance Hosey: Architecture's Great Divide: It's way past time that standards of "good design" and "green design" come together: ...which is more acceptable: to look good but perform poorly, or to perform well but look bad, at least in one critic's eye? ...last year Betsky championed giving awards to socially experimental architecture that some might not find aesthetically appealing, and this year he condemns giving awards to environmentally experimental architecture that he doesn't find aesthetically appealing. - Huffington Post

Alex Ulam: In Putin's Moscow, an Urban Wilderness Emerges: Liz Diller and Charles Renfro talk about their latest high-profile commission, a weather-bending (and politically charged)...32-acre Zaryadye Park...will be one of the most expensive city parks in the world...guiding design principle is "wild urbanism"...There's a broader political context... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [\[images\]](#) - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Moscow's Constructivist architecture under threat by government demolition plan: A proposal to raze Soviet era housing and relocate 1.6 million residents...thousands turned out to protest: ...Moscow published a list of 4,500 apartment buildings...One effort to catalogue, promote and save this radical architecture is the Constructivist Project site... - The Art Newspaper

World Monuments Fund launches Instagram campaign to save Modern buildings: The initiative comes days after three key structures in India were demolished: list will be sent to an advisory council formed of architects...designers and critics, who will advise the WMF on the next phase of the Modern Century programme. -- Raj Rewal (1972); Joshua David/WMF - The Art Newspaper

Samdani Art Foundation Unveils Plans for First Permanent Space: Srihatta-Samdani Art Centre and Sculpture Park...located in Sylhet, a rural area in Northern Bangladesh, about 150 miles from Dhaka...set to open in late 2018... -- Kashef Chowdhury/URBANA [\[images\]](#) - ARTnews

Call for entries: Adelaide Creative Community Hub international architecture competition: Design a community hub to make Adelaide, Australia, a more vibrant and innovative place to live; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): June 2 (submissions due September 14) - Bee Breeders (formerly



HMMD/Homemade Dessert) / Australian Institute of Architects SA Chapter

Jonathan Glancey: The woman who saved old New York: A massive freeway would have destroyed Greenwich Village...if not for one woman's efforts. Jane Jacobs can teach us about what makes cities feel alive: ...message is surely as pertinent as it was half a century ago. This is certainly the message that comes across in..."Citizen Jane: Battle for the City"...her battle is far from over. -- Robert Moses- BBC

Amanda Kolson Hurley: The Show That Fuses Architectural Critique With Real-Estate Porn: Smarter than HGTV and livelier than PBS, the British program "Grand Designs" celebrates architectural problem-solving: ...two seasons...are now available on Netflix, finally plugging a hole in American TV programming for smart, watchable shows about architecture...smuggles serious architectural concepts into a deceptively pleasant package. -- Kevin McCloud- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

NZ Architecture & Design Film Festival set to open in Wellington: Resene Architecture & Design Film Festival...19-strong line-up includes: "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future"; "Having a Cigarette with Alvaro Siza"; "Roger D'Astous"; "Where Architects Live"; to June 4; Dunedin June 8-18; Christchurch June 29 - July 12 [trailers]- The Southland Times (New Zealand)

NYCxDesign: Why all-female shows are popping up all over New York: "I would prefer if we didn't need to have all-female shows, but I will be a part of them until we don't need to have them anymore" - Katie Stout...All is not well in the state of current American politics, and New York's creative community is standing up to support underrepresented voices in art and design.- CNN Style

Preview: Clerkenwell Design Week: Jam-packed with creative businesses and architects, London's Clerkenwell once again plays host from 23–25 May to its annual extravaganza of design.- Icon magazine (UK)

James Way: Works by John Yeon, the godfather of Pacific Northwest modernism, go on view at the Portland Art Museum: "Quest for Beauty: The Architecture, Landscapes, and Collections of John Yeon"...While the work of the self-taught architect was not nearly as extensive as many other architects of the period...his impact resonates in the region. -- Randy Gragg, guest curator [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"The New Urban Crisis": Cliff Notes version: Your 1,200 word bluffer's guide to Richard Florida's new book: ...a lamentation and encyclopedia.- City Observatory

Tanvi Misra: Gentrification Doesn't Mean Diversity: A historically black D.C. neighborhood markets its diversity to lure Millennials. But what happens when the new arrivals never interact with the longtime residents? In "Race, Class, Politics in the Cappuccino City," Derek Hyra lays out his findings. - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

The history of the Las Vegas Strip is the history of how we vacation: ...according to architect Stefan Al, if you look past the crap tables and slot machines to the architecture...you can see the history of U.S. recreation and social change. Q&A

re: "The Strip: Las Vegas and the Architecture of the American Dream." - Marketplace.org (public radio)

Historian honors Detroit architect: ...his name is hardly known outside of architectural circles, and no one had bothered to write a book about the man. That's what struck Michael G. Smith...led him to write..."Designing Detroit: Wirt Rowland and the Rise of Modern American Architecture"...comprehensive and meticulously detailed...- Great Lakes Echo.org (Michigan State University)

5 Things We Learned About the Upper West Side From An Architecture Critic's New Book: "Politically engaged, culturally aware, and slightly sanctimonious." That's how...Upper West Sider Justin Davidson describes the ethos of his neighborhood in..."Magnetic City: A Walking Companion to New York." [images]- DNAinfo New York

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"Hiroshi Sambuchi: Moving Materials": ...an example of how the poetic concept of taking water, air and light, and turning that into architecture, can go beyond just being a romantic idea. [He] demonstrates the value of data and empirical evidence to inform his spatial forms. Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, thru June 25 -- Sambuchi Architects [images]

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Today's News - Tuesday, May 23, 2017

- ArcSpace brings us Bjerke's take on how the "digitalization of domesticity is changing and challenging the physical framework of the home."
- Snøhetta's Dykers responds to the fatal Times Square "pedestrian incident" last Thursday ("things could have been much worse," says Shaw).
- Baillieu says that "while a new generation of urbanists prefers using data to solve urban problems, the human reasoning about cities that Jane Jacobs promoted is still our best guide."
- The Academy of Urbanism's Rudlin says: "It's time to reconcile architects and urbanists. A false and unhelpful division has arisen between the two disciplines."
- Betsky x 2: he considers "the push and pull between those who are pursuing social agendas - and those who are delighting in their ability to invent shapes and colors that shock and amuse" ("cartoonitecture" included).
- He parses a final studio review at the California College of the Arts: "The designs' oddness was a call for otherness, difference. Even if not all the results are up to par, the discussion they all engendered was of the highest order."
- Because of "isolation fatigue in the cyber age, architects and designers are increasingly seeking to imbue spaces with deeper sensory resonance" (or "emotional design").
- Sperber delves into equity in architecture, and bemoans that "publicly rewarding collaborative work is new to the field of architecture."
- Volner gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in Philly: it "tries to circle the square between the Georgian style" in the surrounding area, and "a more contemporary aesthetic."
- Rybczynski's take on Volner and Saffron's reviews of the museum: his is "more even-handed" than her "mean-spirited screed. But both critics miss an important aspect" that deserves mention.
- Wainwright has a grand time touring Le Havre: "Few cities make you want to stroke their walls, but [here] it's hard to resist caressing the concrete" (great pix!).
- Plans for Heatherwick's \$200 million Pier55 may not be dead yet as its advocates go back to court with revised plans (Diller said he hasn't "abandoned" the project, but is now feeling "ambivalent").
- Moore, meanwhile, hails MVRDV's Skygarden atop an elevated 1970s highway in Seoul, a "garden bridge that works": it "promises to be among the more convincing of all the many High Line wannabes in the world."
- Eyeful of MVRDV's elevated Skygarden (wow!).
- McKnight brings us Höweler + Yoon's "white, diaphanous building" in Portland, Maine, that will be home to America's first circus degree program (in honor of "The Greatest Show on Earth" ending its 146-year run).
- A look at "six big saves" from the NTHP's list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" over the last 30 years: "Here's a murderer's row of city sites, and the battles that saved them."
- Meanwhile, the Library of Congress is digitizing its Historic American Buildings Survey, begun in 1933 with the hiring of "1,000 out-of-work architects, partly to support recovery from the Great Depression, but also to record America's architectural heritage."
- A good reason to be in Ottawa this week for the RAIC/OAA Festival of Architecture: Millette mulls the inaugural RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium.
- One we couldn't resist: EcoARK in Taipei, made from 1.5 million plastic bottles, opened in 2010, and it "continues to spread its message of sustainability."

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This week at ARCsplace

Christine Bjerke: Hyper Home: The digitalization of domesticity is changing and challenging the physical framework of the home... Constant flows of data and information being introduced into the private sphere questions how we navigate within our homes as well as the spaces beyond the private realm. -- The FX Beauties Club

Snøhetta responds to Times Square pedestrian incident: ...22 people were injured and one was killed. However, things could have been much worse...The security bollards in the Snøhetta-designed pedestrian plaza held strong and stopped the driver...Craig Dykers...released the following statement: - The Architect's Newspaper

Amanda Baillieu: Walking in the footsteps of Jane Jacobs: Data is a useful tool but urban designers mustn't overlook the importance of human intuition: ...while a new generation of urbanists prefer using data to solve urban problems, the human reasoning about cities that she promoted is still our best guide...“trust what you see”. - BD/Building Design (UK)

David Rudlin: It's time to reconcile architects and urbanists: A false and unhelpful division has arisen between the two disciplines: I am keen to widen this debate. Urbanism is not a stylistic choice...an architect who understands urbanism will work with it and test its limits rather than seeing it as a set of constraining rules to be challenged. -- Academy of Urbanism; Urbed - BD/Building Design (UK)

Aaron Betsky: Neo-Morphism and Woke Architecture: How architecture can be the change we've been waiting for: If there is one dichotomy...it is the push and pull between those who are pursuing social agendas with little interest in form or image and those who are delighting in their ability to invent shapes and colors that shock and amuse. This tension is renewing the old fight between those who think of architecture as a social and engineering project and those who think of it as an aesthetic one. - Architect Magazine

Aaron Betsky: The Return of the Unreal: The California College of the Arts gets comfortingly surreal: ...students today are drawn to the weird and, at best, haunting juxtapositions of form and image...The designs' oddness was a call for otherness, difference, and...the possibilities of architecture within - but at the edges of - convention...Even if not all the results are up to par, the discussion they all engendered was of the highest order. [images] - Architect Magazine

Inside the Rise of Emotional Design: Brought on by isolation fatigue in the cyber age, architects and designers are increasingly seeking to imbue spaces with deeper sensory resonance. -- Luis Barragán; Ma Yansong/MAD Architects;

Hervé Descottes/L'Observatoire International; Darrel Long/Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA); Nick Troubetzkoy - Architectural Digest

Esther Sperber: You Can't Do It Alone - Architecture, Equity And Joint Creativity: Publicly rewarding collaborative work is new to the field of architecture: ...Denise Scott Brown is a good example of why denying the creative power of collaboration is wrong and unjust...Women have long suffered from the myth of the lone creative genius...architecture has always been a joint process. -- Studio ST Architects - Huffington Post

Ian Volner: Inside the Museum of the American Revolution: Robert A.M. Stern's attempt to "transcend the moment": ...Philadelphia project...tries to circle the square between the Georgian style...in the surrounding Independence National Historical Park...and a more contemporary aesthetic...museum is measurably less historicist than originally planned...but it is nonetheless thoroughly retardataire in spirit. -- Alexander Lamis [images] - Architect Magazine

Witold Rybczynski: The Layers of the Past: Ian Volner's review of Robert A. M. Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia is more even-handed than Inga Saffron's mean-spirited screed...But both critics miss an important aspect...Stern's museum...is really a 21st-century interpretation of an early 20th-century take on American Federal...the dialogue with the many pasts of Philadelphia is interesting and bears mention. -- Verus T. Ritter; Howell L. Shay (1934) - WitoldRybczynski.com

Oliver Wainwright: Le Havre, a short break built on concrete chic: [It] is celebrating its 500th anniversary, but its architectural gems are modern masterpieces built from the ashes of war - and now a world heritage site: Few cities make you want to stroke their walls, but [here] it's hard to resist caressing the concrete...stands as a hymn to the mid 20th-century faith in modular construction and prefabrication. -- Auguste Perret; Oscar Niemeyer; Jean Nouvel [images] - Guardian (UK)

Battle of Diller Island Goes Another Round, With a Pier 55 Appeal: ...the long-planned \$200 million performing arts center...is not dead yet... Army Corps of Engineers...filed an appeal [with] the Hudson River Park Trust...Diller said he had not abandoned...but felt "ambivalent" about the project...discouraging to be involved in a project that is "completely in the public's interest" but has been waylaid by...a small group of critics. -- Heatherwick Studio - New York Times

Rowan Moore: A garden bridge that works: how Seoul succeeded where London failed: ...ambitious Skygarden revives a disused elevated 1970s highway: ...the London project has spent many years not happening, the Seoul one has taken two years...promises to be among the more convincing of all the many High Line wannabes in the world...It could be a garden bridge that works. - Winy Maas/MVRDV [images] - Observer (UK)

MVRDV's elevated Skygarden opens on former highway in Seoul: ...983-meter-long park...built on a former inner city highway...will include 24,000 plants...new bridges and stairs connect the viaduct with hotels, shops and gardens at the

heart of the city. -- Ben Kuipers; DMP [images]- designboom

Jenna McKnight: Big-top tents inform building for America's first circus degree programme: ...in Portland, Maine, the Circus Conservatory building...will be the main tenant on a peninsula slated for development...a white, diaphanous building...influenced by traditional circus facilities... -- Höweler + Yoon Architecture; OFIS Arhitekti [images]- Dezeen

For Urban Preservationists, Six Big Saves: The National Trust for Historic Preservation's new list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" looks back at 30 years of going to bat for buildings in need...focus on preservation wins that survived urban renewal: Here's a murderer's row of city sites, and the battles that saved them.- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

From High Style to Humble: Surveying America's Built Environment: Historic American Buildings Survey...over the past 80 plus years. The Library of Congress started digitizing the survey's records...providing public access on its website...HABS...began in 1933 as part of [FDR's] New Deal. Architect Charles Peterson...proposed that the government employ 1,000 out-of-work architects, partly to support recovery from the Great Depression, but also to record America's architectural heritage.- Library of Congress

Daniel M. Millette: The State of Indigenous Architecture in Canada: RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium, Ottawa on May 27...brings together some of the architects practicing within the Indigenous landscape...I have observed a clear and accelerating shift toward...the " taking back" of community planning and architectural design... [part of 2017 RAIC/OAA Festival of Architecture, May 24-27]- Canadian Architect

Amazing building made from 1.5 million plastic bottles withstands fires and earthquakes:...EcoARK in Taipei, Taiwan...nine-story \$3 million pavilion...Constructed for use as an exhibition hall during the 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo, [it] continues to spread its message of sustainability... - - Arthur Huang/Miniwiz [images]- Inhabitat

ANN feature: Vladimir Belogolovsky: One-on-One: "I wanted to be in the middle of things": Interview with Vito Acconci: In this never-before published Q&A from 2015, the late Acconci revealed his highly personal way of imagining his architecture as a pursuit of creating a total work of art that is at once poetry and architecture.- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, May 24, 2017

- Agbo explains the "brutal back-story behind Africa's emerging megacities. If the global design community stayed away from these kinds of blood-tainted briefs, it would compel authorities to act more humanely in dealing with victims of forced demolitions" (a must read!).
- Vonier pens a dispatch from Nairobi's largest slum that "reveals the urgency - and the promise - of Habitat III."
- Hatch parses the ideas proffered by a new UN report that aims "to guide Africa's urban future."
- Megson has a most interesting conversation with Calatrava re: his £1bn vision for London: "Given the controversies of the past, he remains philosophical" with a lesson from Goya: "I am still learning."
- A fascinating look "inside Apple's insanely great (or just insane) new mothership" (12,000 people about to move in, no childcare, but a patented pizza box for all - a fab read!).
- Eyefuls of Hadid's "bold Sky Park master plan to reinvent Bratislava's derelict industrial zone" (it's big!).
- Australia's Gold Coast hopes to boast the tallest "super tower" in the Southern Hemisphere that would "function as a community-in-miniature" - a university included (if it gets the green light).
- Eyefuls of some mouth-watering urban oases round the world that "are inherently architectural," and "intended to serve social roles in addition to biological or environmental ones" (wow!).
- An impressive shortlist of six international teams in the running to re-imagine the National Trust's 18th-century Clandon Park Palladian manse.
- Peters parses Snøhetta's HouseZero, the new headquarters of the Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities, a nearly 100-year-old house that is now a model of energy-efficient remodeling.
- Fornes's Chrysalis Amphitheater in a suburban Baltimore park is a "zippy, sinuous shingled pavilion painted four different shades of electric green."
- Schwab introduces us to Kaynemail, a new material invented by "The Lord of the Rings" weapons and chainmail designer that "has some remarkable qualities as an architectural material" (and very green).
- Ramos offers "5 reasons architects should not work overtime" (#4: Life will pass you by).
- The Graham Foundation awards grants "to support 72 innovative projects engaging original ideas in architecture" (some very cool stuff!).
- Harvard GSD introduces the Loeb Fellowship's incoming class of 2017-18.
- Call for entries: IE Architecture + Design Prize for young architects and designers.

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Mathias Agbo, Jr.: **Tale of Two Cities: Unravelling the Brutal Backstory Behind Africa's Emerging Megacities:** Huge new developments are being preceded by a ruthless campaign of forced evictions. Tragically, this new narrative depicts just a small piece of a much bigger and more disturbing picture...If the global design community stayed away from these kinds of blood-tainted briefs, it would...compel [authorities] to act more humanely in dealing with victims of forced demolitions. - Common Edge

Thomas Vonier: **Aboard the New Urban Agenda: A dispatch from Kibera,**

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Nairobi's largest slum, reveals the urgency - and the promise - of Habitat III: This city (also home to the U.N.-Habitat headquarters) is probably what many delegates...had in mind when they adopted "The New Urban Agenda" last year- AIArchitect

David Hatch: Report highlights case studies to guide Africa's urban future: As Africa urbanizes, policymakers need to better coordinate their economic strategies with plans for city planning...But how? "Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation," published in March by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, offers some ideas. [link to report]- Citiscope.org

Santiago Calatrava: Controversial and colourful...He talks to Kim Megson about the merging of art and technology, building for the public and his £1bn vision for London: For all his passionate words and evident delight in building in London, some people won't be prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. Given the controversies of the past, that's hardly surprising...he remains philosophical..."I am still learning." - CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Inside Apple's Insanely Great (Or Just Insane) New Mothership: Flawless curves. Milled aluminum. Endless glass. Walled garfdem. Sounds like an Apple product: How can anyone justify this spectacular effort? Is Apple Park the arcadia outlined by Jobs...or is it an anal-retentive nightmare of indulgence gone wild? It's probably more accurate to say that Apple Park is the architectural avatar of the man who envisioned it... -- Norman Foster/Stefan Behling/Foster + Partners [images]- Wired

Zaha Hadid Architects unveil bold Sky Park masterplan to reinvent Bratislava's derelict industrial zone: ...in the Slovakian capital....will integrate the facades of the existing Jurkovicova Teplarne heating plant; a decommissioned factory designed by architect Dusan Jurkovic in the 1940s... [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Gold Coast super tower will be the tallest in the Southern Hemisphere: A 108-storey [Imperial Square Stage 3 Tower] planned for Southport...will function as a community-in-miniature...set to house its own university, 2,200 apartments, a 200-room hotel, and 200 student accommodation rooms. -- Kris Kowalski Architects [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Grass on Concrete: The Growth of Urban Oases: ...like all city spaces, urban oases are inherently architectural...intended to serve social roles in addition to biological or environmental ones...Each project serves to reimagine not only the architecture of our cities, but the very narrative of modern urbanization and development. -- Denise and Claudia Ampuero; X-Scape; Adam Kalinowski; Husum Lindholm Architects; Steffen Impgaard; compagnie des rues; SO - IL [images]- Architizer

National Trust announces Clandon Park International Design Competition



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Shortlist: ...six multi-disciplinary teams shortlisted to restore and reimagine...Grade I listed, 18th-century Palladian house,...a new life through new uses...widely considered to be a masterwork, suffered a major fire in 2015. -- AL_A/Giles Quarne & Associates; Allies and Morrison/Feilden+Mawson; Donald Insall Associates/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Purcell/Sam Jacob Studio; Selldorf Architects/Cowie Montgomery Architects; Sergison Bates Architects/AOC Architecture- Malcolm Reading Consultants / National Trust

Adele Peters: This Super-Efficient Renovation Is A Model For Lowering A House's Energy Footprint: The HouseZero project's renovation of this nearly 100-year-old house...now the headquarters of the Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities. -- Snøhetta [images]- Fast Company

With Very Many Shingles: TheVeryMany plants a zippy green theater in a Maryland park: Amid a park in the Baltimore suburbs lies a new outdoor theater...Chrysalis Amphitheater, a sinuous shingled pavilion whose form follows its name...7,700 shingles...painted four different shades of electric green. -- Marc Fornes; Arup [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Katharine Schwab: The Lord Of The Rings' Weapons Designer Invented This Cool New Material: Kaynemail...Kayne Horsham isn't making chainmail for movies. He's making it for architects. The material is incredibly light, only uses 20% of the energy needed to produce steel, and is 100% recyclable...has some remarkable qualities as an architectural material. When used as a facade, it dramatically reduces the solar energy entering a building by 80%. [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Stephen Ramos/LS3P: Stop the Madness: 5 Reasons Architects Should Not Work Overtime: It can become the norm; It is bad for the industry; Life will pass you by...If architecture is just a job for you, then do not work overtime. You should be spending the time doing the things that you love. - Architizer

Graham Foundation Awards over \$560,000 in Grants to Individuals in 2017: ...to support 72 innovative projects engaging original ideas in architecture...by 99 grantees representing 20 countries...- Graham Foundation (Chicago)

Loeb Fellowship's Incoming Class of 2017-18: The Harvard Graduate School of Design has announced nine mid-career professionals who will receive the school's annual grant to study how to make the world a better place. -- Andrew Freear/Auburn University Rural Studio; Matthew Mazzotta; Shaney Peña-Gómez/Quisqueya Binational Economic Council; Surella Segu/Infonavit; James Shen/People's Architecture Office; Tau Tavengwa/Cityscapes magazine; etc.- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: IE Architecture + Design Prize for young architects and designers who graduated between 2014 and 2017; scholarships toward tuition; no fee; registration deadline: August 3 (submissions due August 20)- Arquideas / IE School of Architecture & Design (Spain)

ANN feature: Vladimir Belogolovsky: One-on-One: "I wanted to be in the middle of things": Interview with Vito Acconci: In this never-before published Q&A from 2015, the late Acconci revealed his highly personal way of imagining his architecture as a pursuit of creating a total work of art that is at once poetry and

This week at ARCsphere

Christine Bjerke: Hyper Home: The digitalization of domesticity is changing and challenging the physical framework of the home... Constant flows of data and information being introduced into the private sphere questions how we navigate within our homes as well as the spaces beyond the private realm. -- The FX Beauties Club

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Today's News - Thursday, May 25, 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days (Happy Memorial Day, America!)

- ANN feature: Weinstein says that by "transforming the local and commonplace into the global and rare, McCarter crafts a majestic survey long overdue" with "The Work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple: Economy as Ethic."
- Budds explains why luxury developments "creating cities in cities" is not a good thing: they are "exacerbating class divides," where "room to breathe is the ultimate perk - and it's available for purchase."
- Kuma wants to "bring wood back to Tokyo's concrete jungle," and the government is "offering subsidies to builders" - but there are issues with sourcing and sources.
- Green ponders whether Modernist landscapes are worth saving: "For lovers of Modernism, the answer is always yes. But, in reality, many will need to better respond to contemporary expectations."
- Mock talks to Sutton about what her message is in "When Ivory Towers Were Black": "The capacity of young people to bring about change - that's the message," sayeth she.

Weekend diversions (it's a 3-day weekend for many, so lots of 'em):

- Freed's "The Monster Builder" at the South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, CA, "explores architecture and conflict": it's thumbs-up - until Act II, when the characters "vacillate between sci-fi and farce" ("a legendary architect" included, of course).
- Three thumbs-ups for SCI-Arc's "The Duck and the Document: True Stories of Postmodern Procedure": Hawthorne: it "cleverly tweaks the myth of the all-powerful - and typically male - hero architect - modestly scaled and deeply photogenic. And full of melancholy."
- Hodgetts hails Lavin's "The Duck and the Document" for "connecting the dots with intellect, passion, and forensic precision - breathing new life into what might have been warmed-over pizza."
- Zeiger calls "The Duck and the Document" a "drawing-room comedy full of historical innuendo and half-whispered asides" (the show closes May 28, but will be traveling).
- Wainwright has a psychedelic time at London Design Museum's "California: Designing Freedom": "Ever wondered why email, trash cans, Google Docs and desktops look the way they do? The answer lies in 1960s hippie culture and LSD-taking creatives."
- Hill and curator Olalquiag tour "El Helicoide: From Mall to Prison" at NYC's Center for Architecture that tells the story of how Caracas's "spiraling mall" from the late 1950s became a current-day prison.
- King cheers "The Landscape Architecture of Lawrence Halprin" at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts: the "setting is appropriate - it is downhill from one of his final major projects on the east edge of the Presidio."
- Chicago's Graham Foundation presents "Spaces without drama or surface is an illusion, but so is depth" that is "a delight for the academic, as well as those simply interested in beautiful images and objects."
- Berlin's Aedes Architecture Forum offers "Constructing Culture, Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District" that takes a closer look at the emerging district and "its role as both a supporter of traditional culture and a pioneer in contemporary art and innovation."
- One we couldn't resist: "The Ultimate List of Wonderfully Specific Museums" and their "delightfully singular collections" (we'll take a pass on the tick museum, but Gnomesville looks fun!).

- Sanvito and Schulman's "New London Architecture" (with Heathcote's intro) demonstrates "refreshingly and succinctly" the "abstract and intimate relationship between old and new" in "a city still working out where it wants to go."
- Holter considers Podair's "City of Dreams: Dodger Stadium and the Birth of Modern Los Angeles": it "raises important questions," but "maybe the Dodgers should have ended up in Inglewood."
- An excerpt from Lautman's "The Vanishing Stepwells of India": "the most fascinating and mysterious structures I have ever seen but had never heard of - many breathtaking, many heartbreaking, most often both" - and in desperate need of attention.



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ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "The Work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple: Economy as Ethic": Transforming the local and commonplace into the global and rare: Robert McCarter (with a little help from his friends) crafts a majestic survey long overdue. - ArchNewsNow.com

Diana Budds: Luxury Developments Are Creating Cities In Cities. That's Not A Good Thing: Waterline Square...on Manhattan's West Side, ups the ante for residential perks: ...developments like this are exacerbating class divides...One Manhattan Square...on the Lower East Side...room to breathe is the ultimate perk...and it's available for purchase. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Richard Meier; Rafael Viñoly; Rockwell Group; West 8 [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Olympics Architect Wants to Bring Wood Back to Tokyo's Concrete Jungle: Kengo Kuma wants to restore woods...lost half a century ago in the blitz to build highways, bullet trains and skyscrapers...The government...is offering subsidies to builders of wooden public constructions...The stadium is not without issues. Activist group...called for an investigation into the use of plywood possibly originating from Malaysian forests... [images]- Bloomberg News

Jared Green: Are Modernist Landscapes Worth Saving? For lovers of Modernism, the answer is always yes. But, in reality...many will need to better respond to contemporary expectations...Many are...intrinsically linked with the mistakes of urban renewal...they also came of out stated good intentions... -- Brad McKee/Landscape Architecture Magazine; Elizabeth Meyer; Lawrence Halprin; Jan Gehl; Oscar Niemeyer; Lucio Costa; I.M. Pei; Dan Kiley; Gary Hilderbrand/Reed Hilderbrand; Kallmann McKinnell & Knowles; Campbell, Aldrich & Nulty; Sasaski Associates; The Cultural Landscape Foundation [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Brentin Mock: Behind the Black Architectural Resistance: In the early 1970s, Sharon Sutton got an Ivy League education at Columbia University - spurred by insurgency - that helped her become a leading African-American architect today. This story is captured in "When Ivory Towers Were Black: A Story About Race in America's Cities and Universities" by Sutton... "The capacity of young people to bring about change - that's the message..." - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

"The Monster Builder" explores architecture and conflict at SCR: Not since Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal collided in Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" back in 1949 has the subject of architectural design been featured so prominently...In Act II, however, things get out of hand, and Amy Freed's creations vacillate between sci-fi and farce, toying with the Faustian legend and suggesting historical improbability. -- South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, CA. thru June 4- Los Angeles Times



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Christopher Hawthorne: SCI-Arc show cleverly tweaks the myth of the all-powerful - and typically male - hero architect: "The Duck and the Document: True Stories of Postmodern Procedure"...definitely not a SCI-Arc kind of show...On the surface, [it] is a modestly scaled and deeply photogenic exhibition about the physical decay of the landmarks of Late Modern and postmodern architecture...And full of melancholy... -- Sylvia Lavin; Sarah Hearne; Erin Besler - Los Angeles Times

Craig Hodgetts reviews Sylvia Lavin's "The Duck and the Document: True Stories of Postmodern Procedures" at SCI-Arc: Connecting the dots with intellect, passion, and forensic precision...She plays Lazarus to a fault, raising tired old post-modern architecture from the dead...and breathing new life into the age-old contest between meaning and symbolism...A provocative and thoughtful peek behind the masks of those masters tells us a lot about ourselves... -- Hodgetts + Fung; Sarah Hearne; Besler & Sons [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Mimi Zeiger: Sylvia Lavin Rethinks Postmodernism at SCI-Arc: "The Duck and the Document" revolves around the beguiling question: Does it quack? The gallery is filled with actual building fragments and reproduced construction correspondence...A drawing-room comedy full of historical innuendo and half-whispered asides...inspires moments of delight and recognition. But the old PoMo baggage dies hard. -- Sarah Hearne; Besler & Sons [images]- Architect Magazine

Oliver Wainwright: Designers on acid: the tripping Californians who paved the way to our touchscreen world: Ever wondered why email, trash cans, Google Docs and desktops look the way they do? The answer lies in 1960s hippie culture and LSD-taking creatives: London Design Museum's..."California: Designing Freedom"...aims to shine a kaleidoscopic spotlight on the cross fertilisation of counterculture and tech culture on America's "left coast" over the last 50 years. thru October 15 [images]- Guardian (UK)

John Hill: Caracas's "Living Ruin": El Helicoide de la Roca Tarpeya, a spiraling mall designed by Venezuelan architect Jorge Romero Gutiérrez in the late 1950s, is the subject of an exhibition ["El Helicoide: From Mall to Prison"] and forthcoming book ["El Helicoide's Downward Spiral"] that trace its evolution into a current-day prison. Center for Architecture, NYC thru July 13 -- Celeste Olalquiaga [images]- World-Architects.com

John King: SF 1st stop for exhibition of Lawrence Halprin photos: "The Landscape Architecture of Lawrence Halprin"...The Palace of Fine Arts setting is appropriate - it is downhill from one of [his] final major projects, the tumbling spill of lawns and waterways that enfolds George Lucas' Letterman Digital Arts Center on the east edge of the Presidio. -- Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

"Spaces without drama or surface is an illusion, but so is depth" at Chicago's Graham Foundation: Each contribution...implies its own narrative, separate from the other pieces. Yet, as a whole, the entire show has a clarity that resonates across the disparate objects and installations...a delight for the academic, as well as those simply interested in beautiful images and objects. thru July 1 -- Ruth Estévez; Wonne Ickx; LIGA, Space for Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Constructing Culture, Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District": a closer look at the emerging Cultural District looking at its role as both a supporter of traditional culture and a pioneer in contemporary art and innovation...buildings by leading international architects; Aedes Architecture Forum, Berlin, May 26 - July 13- Aedes Architecture Forum/Aedes Architekturforum (Berlin)

The Ultimate List of Wonderfully Specific Museums: Delightfully singular collections, from umbrella covers to pencil sharpeners: ...how can a museum sustain an entire collection of bananas? Or dog collars? By amassing thousands of the same object, their curators do us a great service, revealing unexpected details about the easily overlooked items all around us. [images]- Atlas Obscura

London is a playground for Pritzker Prize winners, as "New London Architecture" demonstrates: ...refreshingly and succinctly, makes no allusions as to what it's about...photographers Agnese Sanvito and Richard Schulman present...the abstract and intimate relationship between old and new...presenting an honest...take on a city still working out where it wants to go. -- Edwin Heathcote- The Architect's Newspaper

Darryl Holter: Can the Center Hold? "City of Dreams: Dodger Stadium and the Birth of Modern Los Angeles" by Jerald Podair...the battle for [the stadium] raises important questions...how might Downtown Los Angeles have developed if the expansive public housing plan designed for Chavez Ravine by Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander had actually been built...Maybe the Dodgers should have ended up in Inglewood.- Los Angeles Review of Books

Victoria Lautman: The mysterious Indian architecture that's vanishing with barely a murmur: India was once covered by stepwells...but they are now facing extinction. "The Vanishing Stepwells of India" by Victoria Lautman: ...the most fascinating and mysterious structures I have ever seen but had never heard of...many breathtaking, many heartbreaking, most often both...that desperately deserves attention. [excerpt] [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

ANN feature: Vladimir Belogolovsky: One-on-One: "I wanted to be in the middle of things": Interview with Vito Acconci: In this never-before published Q&A from 2015, the late Acconci revealed his highly personal way of imagining his architecture as a pursuit of creating a total work of art that is at once poetry and architecture.- ArchNewsNow.com

This week at ARCsplace

Christine Bjerke: Hyper Home: The digitalization of domesticity is changing and

challenging the physical framework of the home... Constant flows of data and information being introduced into the private sphere questions how we navigate within our homes as well as the spaces beyond the private realm. -- The FX Beauties Club

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Tuesday, May 30, 2017

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Lundgaard & Tranberg's stunning new addition to the medieval city center of Ribe, Denmark, that "grows directly out of the local historical context."
- Hawthorne parses wHY's Scottish Rite Masonic Temple makeover: it has lost "some of its eccentric personality in the stylish redesign," with its "weirdness banished - I found myself wondering what might have been..."
- Kamin cheers Harboe's restoration of FLW's Unity Temple and "one of the most beautiful rooms in America" as "triumphant," dealing with "a host of practical issues without aesthetic sacrifice."
- Gauer parses Harboe's "ambitious restoration" of FLW's Unity Temple, after "a century of wear, exacerbated by seepage that took its toll both inside and out" (lots of FLW stuff next week!).
- Davidson takes to eloquent long-form in an engaging profile of Ingels ("one of the world's pre-eminent "Baby Rems"), and visits some of BIG's Danish projects: "The combination of his engine-revving personality and long view of progress makes his architecture at once practical and bold."
- Byrnes offers a lengthy Q&A with Piano, who "sees his work as a reflection of what's happening in the world, not as a force of change" - "If there's nothing to say, then there's nothing to build!" sayeth the master.
- McGuigan offers "an early look" at DS+R/Rockwell's "adventurous" The Shed, next to the High Line in Hudson Yards, "inspired by Cedric Price's Fun Palace - an unbuilt design for a vastly versatile building-as-machine."
- Gendall reports on The Shed's "first test drive - how unusual it was to visit a job site to test out the movement of a building."
- Levete's "fluid" and "glimmering" (and "massive") Bangkok Central Embassy "is unlike anything else in the city" (that's f'er sure!).
- Betsky is quite taken on a visit Scarpa's Brion Cemetery: "Scarpa can stand as a pre-eminent example of how to make great architecture that is small" (fab photos & video).
- A deep (and disturbing) dive into "how an icon of Venezuelan architecture" became a "hellish" prison: The Helicoide is "a symbol of what Venezuela could have been, and was not" (NYC's Center for Architecture has a great show, too!).
- Brandt and Katz report on 100 Resilient Cities report "Global Migration: Resilient Cities at the Forefront" that "makes clear, migration has become a major urban challenge" (perhaps an issue architects could/should be involved in).
- Ciampaglia reports on AIANY's "We Are All Neighbors: Refugees and the Architecture of Resettlement" panel that explored potential solutions to a global problem: "We're moving from thinking about camps as temporary places to thinking about city-scale projects" (architects included).
- A yearlong research study by HKS explored what the future of the workspace might be for Generation Z (born 1995 - 2010), soon replace Millennials, whose "reign is coming to an end."
- One possible workplace trend Generation Z might go for: "from al desko to al fresco," outdoor office spaces popping up all over (forget Gen Z - we want one!).
- Four fab shortlisted projects in the running for the \$100,000 2017 Moriyama RAIC International Prize for Excellence in Architecture hail from Tokyo, Copenhagen, Melbourne, and Upper Kingsburg, Nova Scotia.
- Call for entries (registration deadline reminder): Rome Contemporary Chapel competition for students and young architects.
- Call for entries: Inaugural AJ Architecture Awards 2017 for projects in the U.K. (open to practices located anywhere).

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This week at ARCsplace

Lundgaard & Tranberg: Kannikegården, Ribe, Denmark: ...grows directly out of the local historical context...adds new, exciting features to the medieval city center: ...opposite the historically significant town cathedral...houses...the parish council and cathedral staff..a lecture theatre and an exhibition space..ruins integrated into the design...and made visible to the public... -- Schønherr Landscape Architects [images]

Christopher Hawthorne: Scottish Rite Masonic Temple loses some of its eccentric personality in stylish redesign for Marciano Art Foundation: ...weirdness had been banished in favor of...antiseptic, perfectly rational galleries...I found myself wondering what might have been...if they'd seen the eccentricity of Sheets' temple - truly one of the oddest but also most emblematic buildings of 1960s Los Angeles... -- Millard Sheets (1961); Kulapat Yantrasast/wHY - Los Angeles Times

Blair Kamin: Delayed restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple is triumphant: [He] was never one to fret about meeting deadlines...So there is something fitting about the delayed...restoration of...the Oak Park landmark...home to one of the most beautiful rooms in America...the team of designers has addressed a host of practical issues without aesthetic sacrifice. -- Harboe Architects - Chicago Tribune

James Gauer: Restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple Unveiled: The ambitious restoration effort led by Harboe Architects will be ready in time for the 150th anniversary of FLW's birth on June 8, 1867....a century of wear, exacerbated by seepage from an undersized internal drainage system - designed by Wright to avoid gutters on 16 separate flat roofs - took its toll both inside and out. [images]- Architectural Record

Justin Davidson: Bjarke Ingels Makes the Impossible Concrete: ...mapping out a new daring plan for the Smithsonian: ...an odd order in which to do things - design first, itemize goals later...BIG's architects are busily un-designing their big idea, repackaging sensationalistic visions into a more neutral, broad-strokes plan...The combination of Ingels' engine-revving personality and long view of progress makes his architecture at once practical and bold. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [images]- Smithsonian magazine

Mark Byrnes: How Renzo Piano Builds Cities: ...discusses how openness in architecture makes for safer, happier places: ...[he] doesn't struggle to find meaning in each new project...sees his work as a reflection of what's happening in the world, not as a force of change..."If there's nothing to say, then there's nothing to build!" ...The truth is that buildings need time - a long time - to tell their story. [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Cathleen McGuigan: An Early Look at New York's Adventurous New Arts Facility, The Shed: ...200,000 square foot structure...next to the High Line, in the new Hudson Yards development...translucent shell...can be rolled out over the adjacent plaza to form an enormous space...inspired by Cedric Price's Fun Palace - an unbuilt design for a vastly versatile building-as-machine. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group [images]- Architectural Record

John Gendall: Diller Scofidio + Renfro's Moving Shed at Hudson Yards Will Amaze You: AD goes inside as the building's starchitects take it for its first test drive: ...how unusual it was to visit a job site to test out the movement of a building...[it] moves without perceptible sound...wedged between the High Line and Thomas Heatherwick's Vessel... -- Rockwell Group [images]- Architectural Digest

Rendering to Reality: Amanda Levete/AL_A Completes Glimmering Bangkok Central Embassy: ...the first British architect to ever complete a tower in Thailand...a massive 1.5-million-square-foot mixed-use project...a new architectural landmark for the country's capital city...The fluid shape...is unlike anything else in the city. [images]- Architizer

Aaron Betsky: Tattoos and Tombs: Carlo Scarpa's Great Small Architecture: After having visited Scarpa's work in Venice for years, he ventures north to finally experience the architect's famous Brion Cemetery: Scarpa can stand as a pre-eminent example of how to make great architecture that is small. [images]- Architect Magazine

Mirelis Morales Tovar: How an Icon of Venezuelan Architecture Became a Prison: The Helicoide was going to be the world's first drive-through mall...former inmates describe as hellish: There was a time when everyone heaped praise on the Helicoide...topped by a geodesic dome by Buckminster Fuller...“It's a symbol of what Venezuela could have been, and was not.” -- Celeste Olalquiaga; Romero Gutiérrez/Dirk Bornhorst/Pedro Neuberger/Arquitectura y Urbanismo C.A.; Julio Coll; Jorge Castillo [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Jessica Brandt and Bruce Katz: Resilient cities plan for urban migration: By incorporating migration into broader city planning, local policymakers can preempt tensions between newcomers and long-time residents while creating stronger, more resilient cities...100 Resilient Cities report "Global Migration: Resilient Cities at the Forefront" makes clear, migration has become a major urban challenge.- Brookings Institution

Dante A. Ciampaglia: AIANY's "We Are All Neighbors: Refugees and the Architecture of Resettlement" Explores the Implications of Resettlement and Relocation: "We're moving from thinking about camps as temporary places...to thinking about city-scale projects"...potential solutions they presented offer a glimpse into a more humane - and hopeful - future for the world's displaced people. -- Saskia Blume; Brandon Fuller; Esin Pekta; Sean Anderson- Architectural Record

Will Generation Z alter the design of the workplace? HKS conducted a yearlong research study to find out the future of the workspace: We have all heard of Millennials...their reign is coming to an end...their replacements...Very young...soon they will be joining an office near you! ...study suggests that Gen Z-ers have very strong views on how their future workplace should operate.- DesignCurial (UK)

The outdoor office spaces where workers commune with nature: From al desko to al fresco. Outdoor office spaces are popping up around the globe - but would you regularly take your business outside? ...with more research emerging about how bad open-plan offices are for workers, employers are increasingly exploring new ways to keep employees engaged, happy and healthy. -- Tate Harmer; TREEExOFFICE; Outbox; Manifold Coworking and Event Space [images]- BBC

2017 Moriyama RAIC International Prize for Excellence in Architecture [\$100,000 CAD] announces four shortlisted projects: ...located in Tokyo, Japan; Copenhagen, Denmark; Melbourne, Australia; and the village of Upper Kingsburg in Nova Scotia, Canada. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Tezuka Architects; John Wardle Architects/NADAAA; MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects [images]- RAIC / Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Call for entries registration reminder: Rome Contemporary Chapel: rethink spaces of worship as a place of introversion in the city with no association to any religion; open to students and young architects; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): June 12 (submissions due August 14)- ArchMedium

Call for entries: AJ Architecture Awards 2017: inaugural awards programme open to practices located anywhere in the world as long as the project is based in the UK; jury will visit all shortlisted projects and architecture teams; earlybird deadline (save money!): June 30 (submissions due July 14)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "The Work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple: Economy as Ethic": Transforming the local and commonplace into the global and rare: Robert McCarter (with a little help from his friends) crafts a majestic survey long overdue. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, May 31, 2017

- Dyckhoff ponders: "How successful is a city where freedom is only available to those with money to invest?" ("Dinky" (double income no kids) - a new one to us!)
- Campbell-Dollaghan looks at how dealing with the urban heat island effect locally "could have major benefits on a global scale - further proof that the battle for the planet will be fought in cities - and that architecture, infrastructure, and urban design will be important weapons against it."
- Leigh minces no words about the "monumental folly" that is Gehry's Eisenhower memorial: "The further away we get from symbolically oriented memorial design, the more we stray into the swamp of memorial sprawl. Why should the taxpayer be on the hook for this white elephant?" (ouch!)
- Saffron cheers Dilworth Park's neglected "stepsister spaces" getting pop-up makeovers for the next two summers thanks to a place-making grant, but when the money runs out - "then what?"
- With input from the community, Mia Lehrer + Associates alters plans for First and Broadway Park in L.A., taking "a greener approach" (including the OMA-designed structure).
- Simpson offers a fascinating look at how "changes in the global faith community has brought exciting new opportunities" that "architects are seizing with relish."
- Moore gives two thumbs-ups to London's Garden Museum: it "has grown into a distinctive new space - where inside and outside and new and ancient overlap" (earthworms included - along with tombs of 17th-century naturalists Tradescant the Elder and Younger - and Captain Bligh - who knew?!!?).
- Wilson cheers IF_DO's Dulwich Picture Gallery pavilion, where "nature and architecture appear to merge" and the roof appears to float ("it is strange that they put the roof up before they put the structure up," says a passerby).
- Viglucci cheers Grimshaw's Frost Museum of Science in Miami: "Planets soar. Sharks swarm. Lasers sparkle. Humans rejoice."
- Gonchar cheers Bruner/Cott's new wing for MASS MoCA that "completes a long-envisioned circulation route - a 'big, gracious infinity loop across the entire campus.'"
- Architects wonder what the future will be for Wichita's 1967 Brutalist gem of a library: "Depending on the eye and taste, the style can be seen as ugly or cool."
- Murphy hails British architects for "combining the digital avant-garde with PoMo's sense of historic context," but "the digital future has never looked weaker" (beware of tedium and "hacks pastiching their work"). "So what happens next?"
- Ferdous wins a research grant to study how facility design affects dementia patients.
- One we couldn't resist: Today, Google Doodle honors the 13th anniversary of Hadid's Pritzker Prize win (includes 3 concept sketches for the doodle - and other doodle architectural honorees).
- Call for entries: AIA Arizona/City of Phoenix \$100,000 Sustainable Home Competition.

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["The Age of Spectacle: Adventures in Architecture and the 21st-Century City")-Icon (UK)

Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan: The Big, Hot, Expensive Problem Facing Cities Now: Cities will lose billions, and the planet will suffer - but designers could help: ...mitigating the urban heat island effect...could have major benefits on a global scale...Some cities are already enacting policy...further proof that the battle for the planet will be fought in cities - and that architecture, infrastructure, and urban design will be important weapons against it. - Fast Company / Co.Design

Catesby Leigh: Monumental Folly: The proposed memorial to President Eisenhower becomes even less appealing:alterations have raised hackles among previously pliable review board members...The steel screen...is not about Ike. It's about Gehry...The further away we get from symbolically oriented memorial design, the more we stray into the swamp of memorial sprawl...Why should the taxpayer be on the hook for this white elephant? -- Frank Gehry- City Journal/The Manhattan Institute

Inga Saffron: After Dilworth Park's Success, What About City Hall Courtyard? Renovating those outdoor areas would cost millions, but the city will dress up the courtyard temporarily this summer with a pop-up beer garden...promises to focus public attention on one of the city's most thrilling, if neglected, outdoor spaces. But after a second pop-up next summer, the money runs out. Then what? -- WRT; Exit; Sikora Wells Appel- Philadelphia Inquirer

Take a look at the renderings for First and Broadway Park in Los Angeles: ...Mia Lehrer + Associates has taken suggestions from the Downtown community, altering their plans...Settling on a greener approach...a two-story structure, designed by OMA...will remain [and] include a rooftop deck and shade structure. [images]- Archinect

Veronica Simpson: Have Faith: Spiritual & Communal Identity: Major changes in the global faith community has brought exciting new opportunities...But what does this mean for architecture and design? ...sometimes, the shifting demands...are translated into spectacular opportunities, which contemporary architects...are seizing with relish. -- Hannah Lawson/John McAslan + Partners; JAJA Architects; Walters & Cohen Architects; Niall McLaughlin Architects [images]- FX Magazine / DesignCurial

Rowan Moore: Garden Museum: hallowed ground for the green-fingered: In the former church...[the museum] has grown into a distinctive new space: ...a new tissue...where inside and outside and new and ancient overlap...not just for garden enthusiasts, but open to children who may never have seen an earthworm. -- Alun Jones/Biba Dow/Dow Jones Architects; Dan Pearson Studio; Christopher Bradley-Hole [images]- Observer (UK)

Rob Wilson: Reflections on Soane: IF_DO's Dulwich Picture Gallery pavilion opens: ...marking [the gallery's] 200th anniversary as well as the launch of the London Festival of Architecture: ...a series of...mirrored panels, only three of which are structural...supporting a lightweight timber and metal mesh roof...appears to float above the panels' reflective surfaces...making nature and architecture appear to merge. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

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Andres Viglucci: Planets soar. Sharks swarm. Lasers sparkle. Humans rejoice: Frost Museum of Science...culminating a years-long, sometimes bumpy move from its cherished home of 55 years in Coconut Grove to a high-tech, \$305-million architectural showpiece on Biscayne Bay...Everything...is bigger, better and cooler than the old...it ought to knock visitors' socks right off... -- Grimshaw Architects; Rodriguez & Quiroga Architects [images] - Miami Herald

Joann Gonchar: The Contemporary Arts Center, MASS MoCA, Expands Within Its Historic Campus: Bruner/Cott & Associate creates a new home for installations by James Turrell, Laurie Anderson, Jenny Holzer, and others in North Adams, Massachusetts...three-story wing, known as Building 6...completes a long-envisioned circulation route...a "big, gracious infinity loop across the entire campus... [images] - Architectural Record

Architects see 50-year-old Wichita library as brutally honest: Depending on the eye and taste, the style can be seen as ugly or cool...There's a tendency in Wichita to vacate and demolish significant buildings when they turn around 50 years old...To some, the buildings become disposable at that point. -- Eric Wittman; Schaefer Schirmer & Eflin Architects (1967); Terry Wiggers/SJCF Architecture; Dean Bradley [images] - Wichita Eagle (Kansas)

Douglas Murphy: Digital baroque: The British architects combining ...the digital avant-garde with pomo's sense of historic context, a new generation...is stepping into the limelight: ...but it is in real danger of being watered down by all the hacks pastiching their work...the digital future has never looked weaker. So what happens next? -- Tony Fretton; David Chipperfield,; Zaha Hadid Architects/Patrik Schumacher; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Maccreanor Lavington; Caruso St John; David Adjaye; RARE Architecture; ACME [images] - Icon (UK)

Study to see how facility design affects dementia patients: ...the need for effective long-term care facilities, particularly for those with dementia, is growing at a rapid pace...KU School of Architecture, Design & Planning lecturer Farhana Ferdous has won a Toyota Foundation grant to study how the physical layout and spatial configuration...can best support residents' well-being. - KU News (University of Kansas)

Google Doodle remembers Zaha Hadid's 2004 Pritzker Prize win: ...13 years ago today....illustration shows the Iraqi-born British architect standing in front of her studio's design for the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, Azerbaijan...."The type in today's Doodle finds inspiration in Hadid's energetic sketches" ... - Dezeen

Call for entries: \$100,000 Sustainable Home Competition: net-zero energy, single family home that has the best potential for wide-spread adoption in the Phoenix region; with intent to build at least 10 homes; deadline: August 15- AIA Arizona / City of Phoenix

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "The Work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple: Economy as Ethic": Transforming the local and commonplace into the global and rare: Robert McCarter (with a little help from his friends) crafts a majestic survey long overdue. - ArchNewsNow.com

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